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THE NEWSPAPER FOR CHATHAM, GILLINGHAM, ROCHESTER, STROOD, RAINHAM & DISTRICT



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MILLIONS POCKETED BY PUPILS

SCHOOLCHILDREN in Medway have received more than £2.5 million in government handouts – simply by staying in education.

The cash has been wired directly into the bank accounts of 2,747 teenagers across the region under the Education Maintenance Allowance scheme.

But this week opponents branded the handouts 'bribery' which do little to prepare youngsters for work.

Figures obtained by Yourmedway in

EXCLUSIVE

BY SIMON ROBINSON

A Freedom of Information request to the Learning and Skills Council show the 'cash for learning' initiative has already cost £11.6 million in Kent and £487.3 million nationwide during the 2007/08 academic year – equating to £904.50 for each student.

Matthew Elliott, chief executive of the TaxPayers' Alliance, said the payments equated to bribery and that the money would be better spend on

improving students' basic skills.

He said: "It's questionable whether EMAs have had any impact on education, so it is staggering that so much money has been handed out."

"At a time when many children who do attend school are leaving unable to read, this money could be better spent actually making sure our schools get the basics right."

The EMA scheme was launched in 2004 to encourage teenagers from low and middle income families to stay in full-time education after turning 16.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Picture: KNP

RETURN OF THE SCARECROWS

Prepare yourselves for the return of some of the most unusual 'art' witnessed in Medway with the return of the scarecrows.

The bizarre wooden Hei People – the work of Finnish artist Reijo Kela – will be in a field somewhere near Chatham, from Monday.

It is a year since his creations were torn apart by vandals when he put 100 in a field alongside the Tour de France route across Kent.

But Reijo was not deterred and promises this time they'll be even better.

FULL STORY SEE PAGE 4



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2 It's not all doom and gloom in the housing market. Take a closer look. See the property channel @ Yourkenttv.co.uk



3 Young chefs take notes from the masters at Canterbury College. See the leisure channel @ Yourkenttv.co.uk

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Help at hand as credit crunch is starting to bite

EXCLUSIVE

BY SIMON ROBINSON

THE global credit crunch has hit Medway hard – and house prices appear to be the first major casualty.

Thousands of pounds have been wiped off the value of homes across the region as gloomy predictions of a slump in the property industry sweep the nation.

The nose-dive has already forced three Chatham High Street estate agents out of business in the past four months – but help could soon be on the way.

A statement from the Council of Mortgage Lenders said more competitive rates will be made available "in due course" after the Bank of England announced a £50 billion bond scheme to prop up the market.

Regeneration

CML's director general Michael Coogan said: "The Bank's actions should ease funding conditions for mortgage lenders over time to help ensure the continued availability of a wide range of mortgages for potential borrowers at competitive prices."

It is hoped the Bank's huge cash injection will reinvigorate Medway's housing market, which was singled out as a hotspot for prosperity earlier this year.

The positive prediction was made by Halifax Estate Agents, which claims the opening of Ebbsfleet International station, further high-speed rail services and multi-million pound regeneration schemes will raise demand for homes along the Thames Gateway.

This will lead to property prices rising accordingly – despite the expected subdued outlook across the market as a whole.

The report said: "The areas likely to record the biggest price gains will tend to be those with a combination of good transport links to a major conurbation and relatively low average prices."

"Chatham and the other Medway towns are likely to record significant



BRICKS AND MORTAR: Lenders hope a £50bn injection will help the housing market

house price increases as demand is boosted by the planned opening of high-speed commuter services to central London to north and east Kent in late 2009.

Meanwhile, the credit crunch continues to take its toll in Medway, raising personal bankruptcy levels to a three-year high and forcing store closures along the High Street.

Sports retailer JJB, which has outlets in Chatham and Gillingham, will close 72 stores this week, while troubled fashion firm Ethel Austin has announced its Chatham shop could shut if it cannot find a buyer.

Residents are also feeling the strain, with 20 penniless people filing for bankruptcy each week.

This year 276 applications have been submitted to Medway Crown Court, Chatham – equating to 20 new cases per week.

In 2007, 954 residents' debts became unmanageable, up from 908 the previous year.

yourmedway

NEWS IN BRIEF

Candidates named for by-election battle

FIVE people are vying for the Rochester South and Horsted ward seat.

It was held by Tory John Ward, but he resigned last month after posting comments on his website suggesting parents on benefits should be sterilised.

The candidates bidding to replace him at the May 8 by-election are Trevor Clarke (Con), Adam Price (Lab), Viv Parker (Lib Dem), Simon Marchant (Green) and Brian Ravenscroft (BNP).

Could you teach keep fit to adult classes?

MEDWAY Adult Learning Service urgently needs people to teach health and fitness classes.

The sessions include exercising to music, exercise for older people and a walking programme.

Teaching qualification are not necessary, as training is available.

However, some experience of instructing others is required. Anyone interested can phone 01634 338456.

The courses run in Green Street, Gillingham, and Eastgate, Rochester. More details at www.medway.gov.uk.

Little Ships visiting to mark Dunkirk rescue

THE ANNIVERSARY of the evacuation of Dunkirk will be marked next month when some of the Little Ships which ferried our soldiers across the Channel come to Medway.

The visit on Saturday May 24 commemorates the 68th anniversary of Operation Dynamo, when 385,000 Allied troops were rescued from the beaches of Dunkirk in May and June, 1940. The Little Ships will moor at Chatham Maritime basin number one.

Arrests after Gills grudge home match

FOUR people were arrested after the football match between Gillingham and Swindon Town. More than 100 officers patrolled Gillingham's Priestfield stadium for the League One match on Saturday. Derek Bowyer, 46, of Chillenden, Wiltshire, was charged with using threatening words and behavior, and was bailed to appear at Medway Magistrates Court at a later date. Another man was arrested on suspicion of drugs offences.

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Now Gordon backs our benefit cheats crackdown

EXCLUSIVE

BY SIMON ROBINSON

OUR hard-hitting clampdown on benefit fraudsters has gone right to the very top of Government – with Prime Minister Gordon Brown throwing his support behind the campaign.

Mr Brown congratulated this paper's 'Your Money – Your Loss' drive, which is already bringing con-artists to book, saying that while unemployment levels are low the need to stamp out benefit cheats is as strong as ever.

Intolerance

He said: "Everyone who can work must be available for work, and we will not tolerate people who are cheating the welfare system and taking money away from people who really need it."

"That is why I congratulate Yourmedway on its campaign to root out the benefit cheats."

"We now have one million fewer people on out-of-work benefits than in 1997."

"But we need to go further now in training every person still on benefits for the jobs that



are available, and working with employers to provide more job opportunities for them. But in return for these new opportunities, there will be new responsibilities."

The Prime Minister's praise follows hot on the heels of similar support from his appointed Fraud Minister James Plaskitt and Medway MPs Paul Clark and Jonathan Shaw.

Mr Plaskitt said: "I am all in favour in papers such as Yourmedway getting involved in this. I think it helps get the message across to the small minority of people who think they can get away with fraud."

"It gives the message to the rest of the community that it will not be tolerated."

Gillingham MP Paul Clark said: "I wholeheartedly support Yourmedway's benefits campaign."

"Any one of us could fall on hard times and that's why benefits are there."

Chatham and Aylesford MP Jonathan Shaw also gave his backing to our scheme, saying: "I



BACKING: Gordon Brown is supporting Yourmedway

support any campaign about benefit fraud.

"I feel that we must create a climate of intolerance to benefit fraud and to undermine its social acceptability."

• If you know of a benefit cheat you can call Medway council's investigations team on 01634 332305 or leave a message on the fraud hotline on 0800 083 7049.

Dad begged Kelly to split

GLAMOUR girl Kelly Brook broke off her engagement to Billy Zane after her father begged her not to marry him from his deathbed, according to a national newspaper.

The Strictly Come Dancing star, 28, who lived with the Hollywood actor at a farmhouse in Grafty Green, was reported as having a heart-to-heart chat with her father Ken Parson just before he died of throat cancer.

The retired scaffolder, 57, from Rochester, had been diagnosed with the condition in June and died in November.

According to the News of the World he made his feelings known to his daughter before his death.

He told her how he always hoped she would get back together with actor Jason Statham, who she split from before dating Zane.

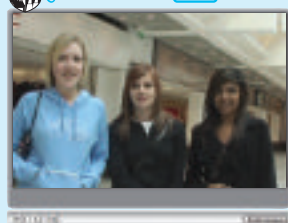
A source told the paper: "The truth is that Ken didn't get on with Billy from the very start."

"He always adored Jason. It was his dying wish that he and Kelly would eventually get back together."

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Music fans give their reaction to the line-up for the Big Weekend

Schoolchildren pocket the cash

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

hold income is less than £30,810 a year is entitled to cash, with those whose family income is less than £20,817 getting the maximum amount of £30 per week.

Bonuses are also available to high achievers, meaning the most a pupil could receive in a year is £1,400 – even with a part-time job.

Despite the cost, the EMA drive has been hailed a success by Labour politicians.

Chatham and Aylesford MP Jonathan Shaw said: "It's really encouraging to see the positive impact EMAs have already had."

"More than 15,000 students in Kent are getting EMAs this year, giving them the chance to stay on in education and training so they have more opportunity of getting the job they want in the future."

EMAs are open to pupils aged 16 to 18 who have left, or are about to leave, compulsory education.

Recipients need to be enrolled on either a full-time course at a college or school, an LSC-funded diploma or course that leads to an apprenticeship, or an LSC-funded entry to employment course.

Uptake in Medway in 2004/05 was 1,205, costing £869,000, which rose in 2005/06 to £1.8 million given to 2,122 learners, jumping to £2.3 million in 2006/07 when 2,640 students signed up.

Cops claim credit for falling crime rates in Medway

CRIME has fallen 20 per cent year-on-year in Medway, new figures show.

The Home Office statistics show 5,530 crimes were committed between October and December last year, compared with 6,963 during the same three months in the previous year.

Violent crime fell by 27 per cent, with robbery plummeting 54 per cent from 92 reported cases to just 42.

Intolerance

Drug offences were the only area to rise, leaping 16 per cent from 101 instances to 117 in 2007.

A police spokesman said the drugs statistic reflected a national trend and that Kent police is actively working to target and disrupt drug networks.

Medway area commander Chief Superintendent Jan Stephens said: "We are encouraged by these statis-

tics which illustrate what we believe – that Medway is a safe place to live.

"Though these results are pleasing, we are not driven purely by statistics and remain committed to delivering an exceptional, community focused service to residents."

"We will continue to focus on promoting neighbourhood policing in Medway as I believe that when we engage with local people we can tackle issues together, promote home security and crime prevention methods and build stronger, safer communities."

Kent police posted similar results, with violent and property crime down 14 and 19 per cent respectively. However, drug offences were up 18 per cent.

Assistant Chief Constable Steve Harris said: "Kent police is determined to continue to build on the progress the force has made in reducing the level of crime and bringing offenders to justice."

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yourmedway
NEWS IN BRIEF

Hospital car park work will take six months

CONSTRUCTION work to add another layer to Medway Maritime Hospital's multi-storey car park started on Monday.

The job is expected to take six months, leading to "unavoidable disruption" for patients, visitors and staff.

A hospital spokesman urged anyone parking on site to allow additional travelling time for their visit or appointment.

He said: "We realise that many patients and visitors find parking on site difficult. Once this work is completed, it will improve car parking capacity at the hospital."

Ex-Gunner Ray Parlour in town as Gills await fate

FORMER Arsenal and England midfielder Ray Parlour was in Gillingham on Saturday.

Unfortunately the seasoned pro wasn't turning out for the Gills in their crunch match against Swindon Town, but overseeing the opening of a new estate agents.

The ex-international cut the ribbon at Purple Property, on the corner of Watling Street and Canterbury Street, at noon before signing autographs.

Gillingham drew 1-1 with Swindon, a result which looks likely to condemn the club to League Two football next year.

New role takes sarge off the beat after five years

NEIGHBOURHOOD sergeant Rob Jackson is leaving the beat after five years to take on a new challenge as Medway custody sergeant.

The former Luton and Wayfield policeman will take up the position next month.

He said: "Neighbourhood policing is the most challenging and rewarding role. Dealing with community issues from start to finish and making a difference gives you great job satisfaction."

Alcohol confiscated in Safer Spring crackdown

A CRACKDOWN on underage drinking and nuisance bikers in Medway will return in the summer after a successful two-week spring campaign.

During the Safer Spring drive hundreds of litres of alcohol was confiscated from teenagers, two motorists were handed nuisance vehicle warnings and two youths were cautioned for cannabis possession.

Sgt Stacy Robson said: "We remain committed to reducing antisocial behaviour and enhancing the quality of life for people."

Scarecrow tribe in defiant return

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

THE scarecrow tribe targeted by vandals last year is returning to Medway.

More than 100 wooden Hei People will be set up in an as yet unidentified Chatham field on Monday, before moving to other locations across Medway and Swale as part of the two-week Fuse Festival.

Their return comes less than a year after they were attacked while on display at Fort Amherst in Chatham and on the Isle of Sheppey.

Speaking after the vandalism, Finnish artist Reijo Kela announced plans to bring his tribe back to England, despite the hostile response from a minority of yobs.

He said: "I have no reservations about bringing the Hei People to north Kent again. I always considered the project as a social experiment and was aware of the risk of vandalism."

"After the incidents I did feel angry at first, mostly on behalf of all the volunteers who spent countless hours putting the installations up and looking after the Hei People."

"But I soon realised that a few mindless vandals could not ruin the positive impact the installations had created."

The 15-day Fuse Festival runs



TRIBAL: The Hei People will return despite vandalism during their last visit, says artist Reijo Kela, inset

from Saturday, May 31, to Saturday, June 14, and will feature top theatre troupes, cabaret performers and dance groups.

The festival plays host to renowned Medway musicians Kid Harpoon and Lupen Crook on Friday, June 6, and Brigadier Ambrose on Saturday, June 14.

Urban Fox Press returns with the Smoking Dog Variety Club for a one-off special.

Medway's artists are complemented by a range of exciting

national and international performers. Rochester Castle will be home to the funny, engaging and moving Motionhouse Dance Theatre and spectacular Arquiem from Periplum Promenade.

There will also be a wide range of open-to-all workshops and three free street arts days.

Unusual characters including a wimple-wielding nun on a motorised piano and the towering metallic Sauruss dinosaurs will also be seen on the streets of

Chatham and Gillingham. Thanks to funding from Arts Council South East England, Fuse tickets start from just £2.

Festival manager Kate Hazel said Fuse had strong central themes. "It's about celebrating art that is a little different, diverse and daring, while making it accessible to as many as possible and giving everyone the opportunity to get involved," she said.

For more information, visit www.fusefestival.org.uk.

Gotcha! 6,000 flashed by safety cameras



NICKED: Medway has 20 fixed cameras

MORE than 6,000 motorists were caught speeding on the streets of Medway last year, new figures show.

In total, 6,259 drivers were given fixed penalty notices during the year after racing past one of the 20 fixed cameras, 13 mobile or two red light sites across the area.

The 20 bright yellow cameras make up more than a quarter of the total for the entire county.

Dartford has Kent's next high-

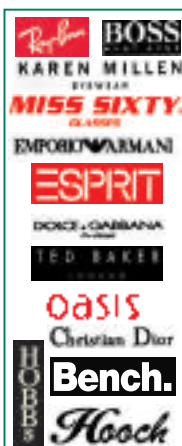
est concentration of cameras, with 12 fixed sites. Medway's large camera presence has recorded year-on-year reductions in the amount of penalty notices issued since the 2004 peak of 22,142.

Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership's communications manager Rachel Wall said: "Since the partnership formed in July 2002 there has been a 58 per cent reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured

at our camera sites. Our objective is not to issue speeding fines but to slow motorists down, which in turn sees the casualty rate on our roads falling."

More than 57,500 fines were given out across Kent last year, with the most issued in Swale (7,874), Dartford (7,756) and Ashford (7,609).

This figure is down significantly on 2004, in which more than 82,900 fines were sent out.



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HEADLINE ACT: The Editors will be taking to the stage for Radio 1's Big Weekend, as will The Zutons (below)

Record 500,000 in ticket lottery

BY JON COATES

A RECORD number of music fans have registered for tickets for Radio 1's Big Weekend in Maidstone.

More than half a million people have applied and were this morning anxiously checking their email accounts hoping to be among the first to get their hands on a pair of the prized 30,000 tickets.

A glittering array of stars is coming to Mote Park for the festival – the biggest free ticketed event in the UK – on May 10 and 11.

More than 50 top international and UK bands and DJs will appear on four stages for the two day festival the weekend after next.

Headlined

The Main Stage will be headlined by Madonna on the Saturday and The Kooks on the Sunday.

They will be joined by acts including Usher, The Enemy, Goldfrapp, Adele, Scouting for Girls, The Feeling and The Fratellis.

The In New Music We Trust Stage will be headlined by The Editors, joined by The Futureheads, on the Saturday and The Raconteurs, joined by the Zutons, the next day.

Fat Boy Slim and Kent's own Pete Tong are the star attractions of the Outdoor DJ Stage – and new bands will be showcased on the Introducing Stage.

A total of 518,575 people had logged their

details when the week-long registration closed at 10am on Monday morning – the highest number for the Big Weekend, which is now in its eighth year.

There are about 30,000 tickets – 15,000 a day – up for grabs – with priority being given to Maidstone residents, those living in Kent and then nationally.

The lucky ticket holders will be notified by email from today until Friday.

One music fan will also get the coveted pair of Golden Tickets – giving access on both days of the event. If you're the lucky winner give our newsdesk a call on 01303 817048.

With the frenzy for tickets reaching its climax, the stars taking part say they cannot wait for the Big Weekend.

Radio 1 DJ Zane Lowe told Yourmaidstone: "I look forward to this every year. Radio 1's Big Weekend is the start of the festive season and this year's line-up is definitive. And the new Introducing Stage is bang on. It will be one to remember."

The Hoosiers, who open the Big Weekend on the main stage on Saturday, said: "To play next to such prodigious talent is as exciting as it is frightening – but I'm sure Madonna will handle it – after all we are just human."

"I have been dreaming about being Madonna's support slot since I was 13."

• A preview to the Big Weekend will appear in next week's paper with interviews with some of the stars taking part. Keep checking www.yourmaidstone.co.uk for all the latest news on the festival as it is announced.



WIN! Tickets to the warm-up party for Radio 1's Big Weekend

RADIO 1 DJ Zane Lowe will be getting the Big Weekend off to a cracking start at The Loft in Maidstone.

On Friday, May 9, the award-winning music presenter will headline the I Should Coco Launch Party and five lucky readers will win the chance to be there with a friend, thanks to Yourmaidstone.

The new and improved indie night will host Lowe's first visit to the county town, which is a tremendous coup for the nightclub.

On his hugely popular radio show, Lowe covers the full spectrum of musical tastes and is a true champion of new music.

He will be joined by indie and rock residents Chris Ward and Graeme Doyle in Room 1, while Room 2 will host the BBC Kent Introducing Big Weekend Special.

At the time of going to press, the band had yet to be announced but local rock DJs Paul Richards of One Day Elliot and Dan 'Mad Pig' Slope are also on the bill.

For your chance to win one of five pairs of tickets to the party, simply answer this question:

Q) Where is the I Should Coco Launch Party being held?

Send your answer, name, address and phone number on a postcard to I Should Coco



THE ZANE MAN: Radio 1 DJ Zane Lowe will play at The Loft

Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SR. Entries must be received by midday on Wednesday, May 7.

For more information about the event, go online at www.myspace.com/ishouldcoco maidstone, call 07739 713890 or email jeff@club-class.org.

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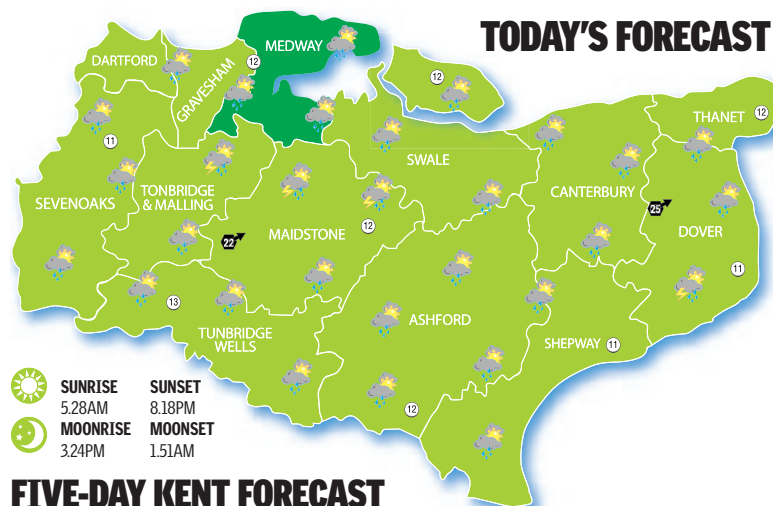
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WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	9:56am	5.0m
	Sunday	10:59am	5.4m
Dover	Saturday	8:25am	5.5m
	Sunday	9:15am	5.8m
Dungeness	Saturday	8:24am	6.1m
	Sunday	9:23am	6.5m
Ramsgate	Saturday	8:55am	4.1m
	Sunday	9:45am	4.4m
Sheerness	Saturday	9:44am	4.9m
	Sunday	10:47am	5.2m
Whitstable	Saturday	9:53am	4.6m
	Sunday	10:52am	4.9m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	12°C	Madrid	18°C
Athens	18°C	New York	11°C
Barcelona	16°C	Paris	16°C
Beijing	18°C	Rome	20°C
Bombay	32°C	Sydney	15°C
Cape Town	25°C	Tenerife	33°C
Cardiff	11°C	Tokyo	18°C
Gibraltar	19°C	Vancouver	11°C
Hong Kong	21°C	Warsaw	20°C
Las Palmas	27°C	Wellington	18°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	13°C	12°C	14°C	16°C	18°C	Gravesend	12°C	12°C	14°C	15°C	19°C
Canterbury	12°C	13°C	14°C	14°C	17°C	Maidstone	12°C	13°C	14°C	15°C	19°C
Chatham	11°C	12°C	13°C	14°C	16°C	Ramsgate	12°C	13°C	14°C	14°C	17°C
Dartford	12°C	12°C	14°C	15°C	19°C	Rochester	11°C	12°C	13°C	14°C	16°C
Dover	10°C	10°C	12°C	13°C	15°C	Sevenoaks	10°C	11°C	12°C	14°C	17°C
Faversham	11°C	12°C	13°C	14°C	16°C	Sittingbourne	11°C	12°C	13°C	14°C	16°C
Folkestone	10°C	10°C	12°C	13°C	15°C	Tonbridge	11°C	13°C	14°C	15°C	19°C
Gillingham	11°C	12°C	13°C	14°C	16°C	Tun Wells	11°C	13°C	14°C	15°C	19°C

Pupils will take to the slopes for disability games

SPORTING youngsters are gearing up for the second annual Medway disability winter youth games tomorrow.

Teams from four schools will compete in the Capstone Ski Centre games, which include skiing, tobogganing and snowtube relays.

The eager youngsters have all spent the past six weeks attending free coaching sessions at the Chatham centre, honing their skills in the quest for a first place finish.

Disability Youth Games patron and 11-time Paralympic gold medalist Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson said: "It's wonderful to see what Medway is doing to promote disability sport and I hope everyone who takes part in this year's games has a fantastic time."

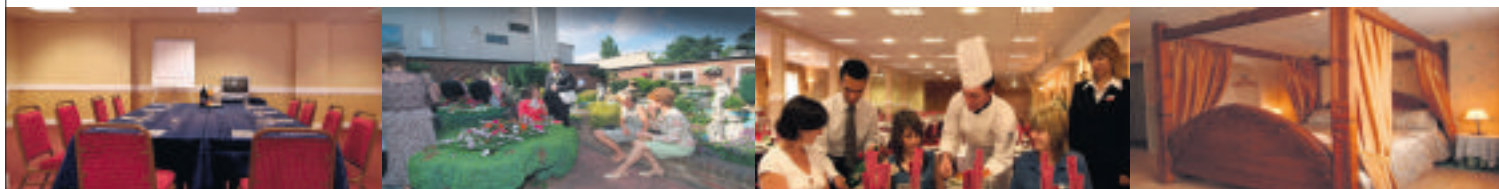
The teams taking part are the Penguins and Polar Bear teams from Bradfields School, Churchill Avenue, Chatham; Warren Wood Community Primary School, Arethusa Road, Rochester; Hoo St Werburgh Primary Unit and the St Werburgh Centre, Pottery Road, Hoo.

The Disability Youth Games comprise of a winter and summer event, and were first held last year following a successful bid for Medway Youth Opportunities funding by Bradfields School pupil Lee Monk.

The 2008 Medway Disability Summer Youth Games will take place on Thursday, July 10, at Deangate Ridge, featuring athletics, football, boccia, archery and kwik cricket.

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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

DAVE SAUNDERS



Q Firstly tell us tell our readers something about yourself and your reasons for being in Kent.

A I am 35, married and have a son. I have lived in Kent for the majority of my life and went to school locally.

Q How did you get involved with the police?

A I have been a police officer for four years. I joined Kent police in 1999 working as a computer technician. I then went on to join the special constabulary in Canterbury and enjoyed it so much I decided to become a regular officer in 2004. Just over a year ago in March 2007 I transferred to Medway as a neighbourhood officer.

Q What aspects of policing do you cover?

A I am the neighbourhood officer for the Princes Park area in Chatham. I deal with an array of policing issues from reports of anti-social behaviour to taking part in drug warrants. The role is a varied one and everyday is different. I work alongside a police community support officer and provide a highly visible policing presence in the area I serve. By patrolling one area regularly we are able to build up a positive relationship with local people and learn about the issues that concern them. Also, I am a fully trained dynamic unarmed entry officer, which means that I can take part in serious incidents when firearms are not used.

Q For you, what are the best parts of the job?

A The variety, the people and the public (in general). We often get a warm reception from local people when out on patrol. They are genuinely happy to see a bobby on the beat and keen to interact with us. I could be dealing with a road traffic collision one day, involved in a foot chase the next or tackling graffiti. It is also good to work with people who are passionate about making a difference and making the area safer. We are all committed to our jobs and I think this is reflected in the service we offer to the public.

Q ... and what are the worst parts?

A The paperwork, though a necessity, is the worst part of the job. We would all rather be out on the streets than filling in forms. As a police officer you get to see some unpleasant things and break bad news to people. We aim to deal with these things professionally and compassionately.

Q What skills are needed?

A You need to be physically fit, be prepared to work long, unsociable, hours and be able to multi-task. You also need to be able to communicate with a variety of different people and be able to keep a cool head, when everyone else around you is losing theirs!

Q What are the biggest challenges facing policing in Medway?

A Addressing public confidence and people's fear of crime. We understand that people's fear of crime is far greater than the actual levels of crime and I hope that providing a regular presence on the streets we are able to offer people a level of reassurance and make them feel safer.

Q What do you like to do in your spare time?

A Apart from spending time with my family and friends, I am a keen cyclist and enjoy running. I am hoping to run in the next London Marathon and take part in some charity runs this year. I also enjoy motorsport, in particular, motorcycle racing.

Q Life on Mars/Ashes to Ashes - what do you make of it?

A Brilliant telly show - bring it back. Both shows had a great following in the nick and I now want an Audi Quattro to patrol with.

Q Anything you would like to mention?

A We want every Medway resident to know how to contact their local neighbourhood officer. They can do this by logging on to the Kent police website, www.kent.police.uk and using the postcode search facility. The site also has details on ward priorities, local police surgeries and their local PACT meetings.

Q & A

The neighbourhood police officer took the time to talk to **Simon Robinson** about his work patrolling the streets of Medway, why he loves the area... and his take on his fictional counterparts



OPEN DAY

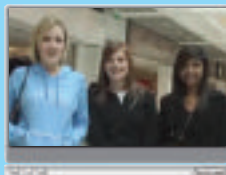
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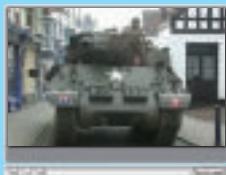
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Response on the street to news Madonna is coming to play Maidstone next month.



Tour a historic fire engine dating from 1890 preserved at a local museum.



Find out why a World War Two tank rolled through the streets of a seaside town recently.



See where Lewis Hamilton first showed the promise for his road to success.



The chairman of the Kent branch of the NFU outlines the dangers posed by bluetongue.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...

yourkenttv.co.uk

Network to help decrease use of car and fight disease

County aspires to combat bad health

BY NICK AMES

A TEN-year plan to promote country pursuits has been launched in a bid to combat rising levels of obesity and heart disease.

The scheme aims to provide more opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding in the beautiful countryside of Kent.

The plan, introduced by Kent County Council, will also attempt to reduce the volume of traffic on the county's roads and enhance public rights of way – some of which have come under threat from new developments.

The scheme, unveiled at County Hall in Maidstone on Monday, is seen as a vital way of combating the onset of chronic health problems by offering easy access to exercise.

It is also hoped greater access to the Garden of England will attract more tourists from throughout the UK and worldwide.

KCC environment cabinet member Keith Ferrin said: "Kent is a stunning county and it is only right that its network of paths should be a gateway for visitors and residents to explore Kent's heritage, wildlife and iconic landscape."

"However, it is also extremely important that the network functions as a practical and appealing way to get from A to B over short distances without using a car."

The plan aims to raise the standard of path gates and bridges, as well as signposts.

In areas of growth and development KCC want to ensure existing paths are protected as well as developed in all areas to provide an alternative to car usage.

They also intend to improve safety and give out information to people who wish to explore the countryside using bicycles or on horseback



GET FIT: People will be encouraged to walk, cycle and ride and paths and signs will be improved

– or by simply taking a walk.

Finally, the plan is to ensure people respect the environment and understand how important it is.

The plan is part of a decade-long strategy first put forward in 2000 as part of the Government's Countryside and Rights of Way Act.

All local authorities were required to heed its requirements but KCC has described its

approach as "aspirational" – saying it has gone beyond the standards set nationally.

Chief executive Peter Gilroy said: "This is an exciting first step and now we will be able to deliver it."

"If we are successful it will reduce congestion, support rural business, improve people's health and, most importantly, improve the quality of life for the people of Kent."



C diff down 31pc but spot checks aim to do more

THE health watchdog has launched its biggest ever crackdown on poor infection control practices in hospitals across the country.

Kent's seven acute hospitals will be inspected as part of the drive to reduce deaths and illnesses from healthcare associated infections such as Clostridium difficile and MRSA.

The Healthcare Commission warned hospital trusts to ensure they are meeting the 11 duties outlined in the Government's hygiene code, which came into force under the Health Act 2006.

Health Secretary Alan Johnson announced the measure after the watchdog's report into two outbreaks of C diff at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust's hospitals, which led to the deaths of 90 patients.

A team of inspectors, including specialists in infection control, will carry out the spot checks with help from microbiologists and infection control nurses. Staff at all levels in the trusts will be interviewed.

Anna Walker, the commission's chief executive, said: "There is a focus on infection control in the NHS like never before."

"However, if we find any trust falling short of their obligation to protect patients from infection, we will use our powers to ensure improvements are made."

KOS Media has joined forces with NHS trusts across the county to help in the fight against healthcare associated infections.

Through the campaign people are being encouraged to wash their hands regularly, at home, work or at hospitals.

Medway NHS Foundation Trust's latest figures show it has exceeded Government MRSA targets – reducing infections of the superbug by 56 per cent over the past year.

And cases of C diff have reduced by 31 per cent, the trust revealed this week.



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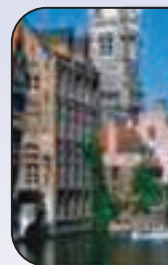


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GTA IV will make a killing

BY NICK AMES

IT'S being touted as the biggest event in video game history and stores are braced for one of their busiest weeks of the year.

Grand Theft Auto IV arrived in Kent shops yesterday amid a whirl of hype and expectation – and the sound of tills ringing.

Outlets such as HMV in Maidstone opened their doors at midnight to meet the huge demand for the controversial title and there were fears it could quickly become sold out.

Remarkably, the game – set to become the fastest selling in history – is due to take more than £200 million in its first week alone.

That's equivalent to the first week's takings of Hollywood's biggest ever opening movie, Pirates Of The Caribbean 3, At World's End.

Which means GTA IV could make in one week the equivalent of the entire international gross takings of the movie Gone With The Wind since its release in 1939 – a clear sign of what a massive player in the entertainment market the video games industry has become.

However, the game has also drawn criticism from some quarters.

The plot of the game – which would take 40 hours to play straight through – sees former soldier turned immigrant Niko Bellic arrive in a disguised New York – called Liberty City – ready for action. Niko had been promised a



AMERICAN SCREAM: The ultra-violent Grand Theft Auto IV has drawn criticism from immigrants' rights groups

new life by his cousin after his arrival from Eastern Europe, but false promises lead him into a life of crime and violence. As well as stealing cars and goading police into chases, he can visit prostitutes, run down pedestrians and get a foothold in the world of drugs.

Canterbury MP Julian Brazier has warned of the dangers of such games and GTA IV has also attracted criticism from immigrants' rights groups.

A spokesman for the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants said the central char-

acter could cause problems for Eastern Europeans. "This plays on untrue stereotypes," he said.

But that is unlikely to stop gamers rushing out to buy a copy. Eventual profits for makers Rockstar Games could exceed half a billion pounds.

A spokesman for HMV said: "Games are the new rock and roll and we expect to sell more GTA IV copies than Madonna's new release."

The game is available for the Sony PlayStation and Microsoft's Xbox 360.

VIEW THIS CLIP ON

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Your LOCAL TV ONLINE



Judge for yourself on our TV website

GRAND Theft Auto IV is flying off the shelves as you read this – but what is the fuss all about?

Log on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk to watch one of the many trailers released in the run-up to its release and see for yourself.

Our free, broadband TV site contains thousands of films from readers – and we want more.

Simply visit the site, follow the instructions and upload your clips on any subject of your choice. We'll look forward to seeing them and the best will feature in this paper.



BY THE BOOK: Youngsters were encouraged to keep up the reading habit during the launch

Are you sitting comfortably?

A COMFY sofa and dozens of copies of Your midweek newspapers helped start the National Year of Reading drive.

A three-piece suite was placed outside County Hall, Maidstone, on Monday last week, giving youngsters and adults the perfect place to pick up our papers for a quick read.

Passers-by were also tempted to stop off by a cosy bed, an easychair and a rug, all helping to build the "great place to read" theme.

Youngsters from nearby schools were treated to storytelling sessions during the launch event and offered a range of books to read.

KCC's community services chief Mike Hill

said: "This was a fun way to get the message across that reading is important and should be a central part of everybody's life."

"Reading is everywhere, and isn't just about books but can include the internet, newspapers – even instruction leaflets."

"I hope the National Year of Reading will inspire those who do not read very much – and those who do – to make it a priority, not just for this year but throughout their leisure, work and home lives."

KCC is planning and promoting a range of activities and events in the next year to encourage people to fall back into love with reading.

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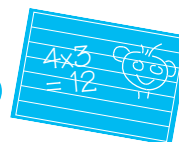
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yourmedwayschools



Testing times, but school is equal to them

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

LUTON Infant School has been praised for its efforts in maintaining good standards in the face of many testing challenges.

Ofsted inspectors rated the Alexandra Road, Chatham, school highly, noting the "enormous pressures" on resources.

Their in-depth report stated: "This good, effective school has continued to consolidate the several strengths identified during the last inspection, despite some significant recent changes in its context."

"The drop in overall numbers, the marked rise in the proportion of pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and the significant increase in the proportion of pupils recently joining the school with little or no English, have placed enormous pressures on all the school's resources."

"It is a measure of the good, sensitive leadership of the head teacher, the effective contribution of other leaders, and the good support and challenge provided by the governing body that the school has been able to cope so effectively with these challenges."

The school is described as providing outstanding care, guidance and support for its 202 pupils, while the youngsters' personal development, behavior and attitudes are said to be good.

The curriculum is thought to be carefully planned and well balanced, focusing equally on the development of basic literacy and numeracy skills as well as work in art, music and drama.

Head teacher Susan



CLASS ACT: Inspectors have praised Luton Infant School pupils and staff



Lythgoe said: "We are pleased that Ofsted recognises we are a good, effective school. Pupils are happy and we have high expectations for the children."

"I'd like to thank the whole team for their dedication and hard work in raising standards and the outstanding care given to our children."

Medway council's children's services chief Les Wicks said: "I am pleased the inspection team has recog-

nised the strengths of the school. They put pupils' needs first and that is what it is all about. This good report is well deserved."

Children's services director Rose Collinson said: "I am so pleased Ofsted has praised the outstanding care and support Luton Infant School provides for pupils."

"The head and her staff work hard to make sure this is a great school in which to learn and make good progress."

"I am delighted the inspectors have noted the school's strengths, ethos and values. Congratulations to everyone at the school - well done."

BREAK TIME

Ready to romp in new play area

TODDLERS at a Chatham pre-school centre can hardly wait for summer, when they will get to make the most of their new outdoor play area. The All Saints Children's

Centre's play area has been constructed next to the pre-school in Tramways, Luton.

As well as offering youngsters a place to have fun and remain active, the centre's healthy eating project team will be running 'little digger' sessions to teach the children how fruit and vegetables grow.

Early education and childcare coordinator Chris Hogbin said: "When the pre-school moved here the outdoor area wasn't a safe or interesting environment."

"So we arranged for the site to be transformed into somewhere that would encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle."

"We are really pleased with the new play area and hope the centre's children enjoy using it."

All Saints is open for children aged under five. For more information, contact Jo Bunn on 01634 338833.

Friends' raffle aims to boost school bid

TICKETS for the Robert Napier School's summer raffle go on sale today, Wednesday, at the Year 7 parents' evening.

The raffle is being organised by the Friends of Robert Napier School, which aims to raise £50,000 for the Gillingham secondary school's specialist humanities bid.

So far the school has collected £37,000 from a range of sources and fund-raisers.

Friends chairman Janet Cheeseman said: "The summer raffle will be linked closely with the school and sports day, so I hope members and pupils all support this event as they have done in the past."

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yourmedwayblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in Medway...



Chinese culture will never dominate rest of the world

WE have seen in recent weeks possibly the first example of the way China can flex its international muscles with the squad of track-suited minders protecting the Olympic flame on its "journey of harmony" – which provoked riots from Paris to San Francisco.

They were there on the streets of London elbowing people out of the way, ordering British police and stewards around and generally presenting a face to the world of the kind of mentality that likes to crack down hard on a group of pacifist monks wearing orange robes.

According to some analysts the 19th century belonged to Britain, the 20th to the USA and the 21st is set to be dominated by Beijing.

Now is this a state of political play which should be applauded?

The British Empire may not have been all sweetness and light. But both the British and Americans did have some sort of vaguely liber-

al consensus. Fighting the Nazis (both), suppressing the slave trade (us), roads, schools and hospitals (us again) and rebuilding Europe (them) all immediately come to mind.

But the Chinese have no such lofty ideals – whether its suppressing dissent or cosying up to regimes such as Robert Mugabe's or contributing to the genocide in Darfur, China has no interest whatsoever in anything beyond its own advancement.

So will this massive country dominate the world in the coming decades? I'm not sure it will. Chinese goods may be cheap, it's workforce willing and ready to work for 19 hours a day and its military top notch.

But the British and American dominance came from something more than that. In the 19th century it was the earnest desire of every local potentate to have their sons educated in England. Although the former Imperial possessions are now rightly self-governing, how many former subject people play their ex-colonial overlords at sport?

Playing in England, whether at Lord's, Wembley or Twickenham is often stated as the

crowning honour for cricketers from Pakistan, footballers from Jamaica or rugby players from South Africa.

America never had an Empire as such – it just conquered the world with a mixture of Coca Cola, mass production of consumer goods and endless repeats of Friends.

Britain was one of the first countries to respond to the allure of the USA – 1950s greyness was contrasted strongly with the land of the Cadillac, James Dean, and Elvis Presley.

The rest of the world soon took notice and unless actually banned, America is everywhere from Japan to Namibia.

But in stark contrast who would love to work all day in a stapler manufacturing plant in Shanghai? Or rationalise coal production at an office in Xi'an? China won't dominate as a cultural force like Britain did and the US does until people across the globe aspire to actually being Chinese.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All bloggers are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

GET IN TOUCH...

We want to hear your views



EMAIL: Letters, comments, views (along with your name) to: yourmedway@kosmedia.co.uk



TEXT: **MEDW** then your message to: 81800 (please remember to include your name)

LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Jon Coates**, on 01303 817048 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Medway blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the news editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourmedway.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, Yourmedway, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

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tickets to the British International Motor Show Music Festival

ORGANISERS of the British International Motor Show Music Festival have added superstars Blondie to the line-up of top talent performing at the ExCeL this summer during July 23-August 2.

And you can be there thanks to a great competition we're running.

Blondie will perform on July 28 as part of a string of shows taking place at the riverside concert venue as part of the Motor Show at ExCeL in London.

A collection of other world-famous acts will perform to mark the event. Stars so far confirmed include: UB40, Status Quo, Squeeze, Here and Now 80s Tour (featuring Bananarama, Belinda Carlisle, Paul Young, Toyah, Kid



Status Quo

Creole and the Coconuts, Midge Ure and Nick Heyward) Deep Purple and Jools Holland featuring Marc Almond. Alice Cooper, Chicago and Meat Loaf and now Blondie too.

Music festival tickets will be sold separately but include free access to The British International Motor Show on the day of the concert giving you two shows for the price of one. Ticket prices are £25/£30/£27.50/£32.50, and wheelchair spaces are available with carer free (all tickets subject to booking

fees). Tickets are available from www.seetickets.com or www.live.nation.co.uk

But you could be there for free after we teamed up with Live Nation to offer ten readers a pair of tickets to the concert of their choice; which, of course, will also allow the winner to attend the motor show on the same day.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Music Festival Comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. Closing date is June 1, 2008.

Question: Which US band fronted by Debbie Harry has just been added to the line-up?

No purchase necessary. For our full terms and conditions see www.kentnews.co.uk or call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature on your entry'.



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TALK TIME

JOY SANDERS

The Macmillan volunteer tells us about her work for the cancer care charity, her claim to fame and what she'd change if she were Queen for the day



Tell us a little about yourself.

I'm 58 and fairly newly retired from what felt like several lifetimes in teaching. I miss the students, but not the bureaucracy. I've lived in Medway since 1974 and have always liked the location.

Why did you get involved with Macmillan Cancer Care Support?

I volunteered with Macmillan because I wanted to honour my late husband's commitment to the building of the new cancer care unit at Medway Hospital. I work with the unit fundraising group, helping to organise and run fundraisers – which often involve turning my kitchen into a bakery. I'm also part of a pilot scheme to train volunteers to go into schools. It's not just a matter of fund raising – although that is important – we educate about cancer, about the huge range of services Macmillan can offer, and give students the chance to talk freely and safely about the disease and its impact. Why not come and join us at Macmillan? There are so many worthwhile ways in which everyone can help.

What would you do if you were Queen for the day?

Abdicating! I wouldn't want to be Queen for five minutes, let alone a day. Although, if I had the chance I'd want to improve the parking situation at Medway Hospital. When my husband was an in-patient I was paying about £30 a week in parking fees to visit him – there must be so many people in hardship already for whom this just adds to their problems at a vulnerable time.

What's your claim to fame and what are your hobbies?

I am a Guinness world record holder! Well, me and 3,299 others. At a recent I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue stage performance, we in the audience wrestled the 'Most People Playing Kazoos at One Time' record from the mouths of the Americans.

YOUR LETTERS



The gangs are not always bad news

Not all those that went, went to fight. Some are just sheep... have the police and council thought maybe these kids are bored and need somewhere to go, something to do?

Three lads walking home a young girl are seen as a gang and split up.

Are the police and council saying that the girls are safe on the streets of Medway?

Not all gangs are bad news. I have been out at night and met good manners and politeness out of those you describe as "thugs".

They're the ones who insist on ensuring the girls get home safe.

Rosie from Chatham
Comment left on

www.yourmedway.co.uk website

No peace until someone gets hurt

The police didn't stop the fight,



COMMENT ONLINE TOO

NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the www.yourmedway.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article.

To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, www.yourmedway.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Rochester, Chatham, Gillingham and Strood, as well as our villages.

We will include the best on these pages too – ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience.

In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourmedway before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out.

On www.yourmedway.co.uk you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly-acclaimed e-editions.

they just prolonged it!

Chatham and Strood will never be at peace until someone gets

seriously hurt.

And it wasn't White Road Crew, it was Chalk Pitt Crew and

House Crew, and Luton. Basically, the whole of Chatham Boiz.

Chatham Boiz

Comment posted under gang fight story on Yourmedway website

Speed cameras are there to save lives

In response to the letter from Terry Hudson about the A249 speed camera in your April 23 edition.

Mr Hudson claims that our Detling Hill mobile safety camera (in the lay-by half way up the hill) is not listed on our website.

Firstly, it is not a legal requirement to list cameras on our website but we do so that motorists are pre-warned of our enforcement activity and have the chance to slow down and avoid a £60 fine and three points on their licence.

I can indeed explain the confusion.

As stated on our website www.kmscp.org (both at the top of the site information table and weekly mobile locations page) "Fixed site cameras are in daily use and may be supplemented by our mobile camera teams."

This has always been the case since July 2002. The vans operate anywhere within a signed fixed camera location to discourage motorists from slowing down at the fixed sites and then speeding up.

A camera site is approximately 1km in length and the cameras are placed to slow motorists down and reduce casualties throughout this entire length.

Therefore the mobile safety camera is 'backing up' our fixed camera at the bottom of the Detling Hill, which is clearly listed on our website.

I can also tell Mr Hudson that three years prior to the

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introduction of the camera nine people died or were seriously injured and there were 16 personal injury crashes on that stretch of road – again all these figures are on the website.

I can assure your readers the cameras are not there to make money but are there to reduce death and injury on our roads – all our financial records are also on full display on our website.

Perhaps Mr Hudson should consider those who have lost loved ones or been injured at this site before making such remarks.

If motorists stay within the legal speed limit they have no need to worry about our safety cameras.

Since July 2002 safety cameras have reduced the number of people that have been killed or seriously injured by 58 per cent.

Rachel Wall

Communications manager for the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership
By email

Jade Hobbs is the only answer you need

I read with interest the letter from Terry Hudson in last week's Yourmedway regarding the speed camera on Detling Hill.

As Mr Hudson is obviously good at research could I suggest he Googles 'Jade Hobbs' and then perhaps he might have more of an idea on why there is a 50mph speed limit on a road that divides a community.

I don't think any further comment will be necessary.

Paul Alcock
By email

Town halls have now outlived usefulness

The house price correction needed to happen. Far worse is the insatiable usury of the banks and government.

I have campaigned since 2000 for 'affordable living' but how can that happen when we are being ripped-off by false free markets and dubious unregulated utilities, and food purveyors that are beyond our control?

I don't mind the natural cycles of the weather, or economic belt-tightening. After all human beings are naturally resilient and resourceful, like nature we could recover given the chance.

What I cannot stand is the greed, sleaze and corrupt practices of government and local councils.

They are monopoly businesses that have lost all sense of proportion and care nothing what damage they inflict on us.

Councils are prosecuting us for whatever rules they decide to enforce.

They have outlived their usefulness and are an unjust monopoly that extracts council tax and gives us nothing back of any value or meaning.

Nit-picking hypocrites pursuing taxpayers with overzealous narrow-mindedness are the worst elements in England.

They are backward, inflexible and unyielding, ie. unsuitable for the purpose of spending our money or laying down the law, now we know that their salary packages take first bite out of public cash.

Rita Grootendorst
By email

We must make better use of the countryside

Rising food prices due to the effects of climate change, use of land for biofuels and the highest oil prices ever can be resisted by the public.

If councils persuade landowners with agricultural land on the periphery of towns to rent it out for allotments, then a lot more people can grow their own food.

About two years ago, four out of every ten ordinary seed packets being sold were food crops.

Now six out of every ten seed packets sold are for food growing.

Whilst many people do have gardens or allotments, many others do not have space for growing food.

Given rising food prices and energy bills it has become important to ensure people have access to land which allows them to grow food and keep household bills down.

How can this be done? Better use of pastureland or other agricultural land on the fringes of urban areas would seem to be the best answer. Landowners or farmers could benefit from regular income paid by allotment holders.

Surpluses could be sold in Kent's ever expanding farmers' markets or be passed on to the relatives, friends and neighbours of allotment holders.

The cheapest organically grown food people can obtain is what they can grow for themselves.

Kent Green Party has written to the chief executives of councils in Kent to ask for upgraded policies towards allotment development.

Dr Hazel Dawe
Chair of Kent Green Party
By email

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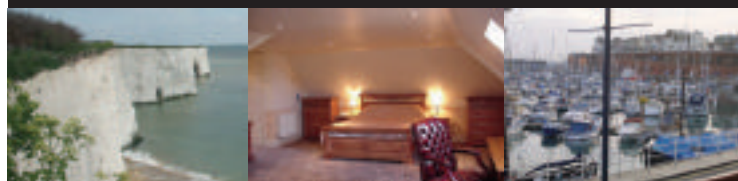
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You can taste the ambience

■ Village Hotel

THIS hotel is difficult to put into any simple category but it really does bring something new to the leisure market and whatever your interest, there's something for everyone.

Chris Ross is the operations manager and he explained the thinking behind the Village Hotel.

Chris said: "Village has 17 sites across the UK catering for all demographics with an option for everyone."

"Village prides itself on its price competitiveness and adds a modern vibe to the hotel and leisure market."

"Walk into Verve or the Victory and taste the vibe. Not only is the menu deliciously dotted with modern classics, but you can almost taste the ambience!"

The hotel has 122 bedrooms, the Verve Grill Restaurant, which can seat 130 people, the Victory Pub, conference and banqueting suites, an extensive leisure club which includes a pool and the Vibe Café.

Paul Rutter is not a typical head chef according to Chris. He said: "The traits that



he portrays are: passion and commitment for food and team development.

"He is highly flexible and always commits to 100 per cent consistency."

Verve grill offers a wide range of dishes made fresh everyday with seasonal changes

to shake up the menu. Then there's the Sunday Best – a four course carvery lunch for just £12.95.

Opening: Leisure club 6.30am-10pm, restaurant from 7am-10pm, pub 11am-1am (residents bar after hours), café 7am-7pm.

An oriental experience to remember

■ The Water Palace

THE Water Palace in Sittingbourne is home to both fine food and wine offering diners the finest examples of Chinese, Beijingese, Szechuan, Fujian and Hong Kong dishes to choose from.

A new menu was introduced last month to coincide with Chinese New Year – but crispy duck remains a firm favourite on the menu.

Chen-ai-Qin explained how the venue has acquired such a good

reputation throughout Swale, Medway and beyond.

"We have been in business for three years now and we always have very bubbly people who always go out of their way working here."

"I was in east London before coming here but this is a much quieter and nicer area."

"Our three chefs are always happy and we prioritise location, value for money, service, ambience and the quality of our menu."

"We always get letters from

people who have had a great time and there are lots of regulars who love to come here."

"We go out of our way to ensure that every customer has the best experience possible."

She also listed her most important qualities for running a successful restaurant.

"They are good people; family; good decoration and... don't forget, good food."

The restaurant is open weekdays from 12-3pm then 5pm-11pm and on weekends from 12-11pm.



CHEF RECOMMENDS

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Start with aloo chaat or chicken chaat, small pieces of chicken or potatoes cooked with massala, tomato and cucumber, with hot and sharp flavours. Then for the main why not try a speciality curry, such as lemon grass chicken or lamb?

Village Hotel

The current menu features many tasty, freshly prepared dishes, which are good combinations of flavours and textures. One of the favourites is the seabass, with crushed new potatoes and pea puree, this is a nice light dish with good simple flavours.

Cafe Narino

Simple favourites for a quick, tasty meal include ciabatta panini filled with tuna and sweetcorn, tomato and herb soup and a tasty cheesecake. All of which are proof you don't have to go to a fancy restaurant to enjoy good food.

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IMPOLITE: Roy Chubby Brown rarely appears on television because of his coarse humour, but he has gathered a massive nationwide following

Take offence

Roy Chubby Brown trades his insults in worst possible taste

THE air of Chatham will be turning blue when Roy 'Chubby' Brown takes to the stage.

Few comedians, with the possible exception of Bernard Manning, have divided opinion the way Brown has during his 30-year career.

Considered by some to be the most offensive comedian in the country, Brown continues to fill theatres and is viewed with great affection by his many fans.

Born into one of the country's poorest industrial suburbs in 1945, Brown – who started out in life as Royston Vasey – faced a difficult childhood in Middlesbrough.

When he was nine years old, his mother ran off and took Brown's sister with her, leaving the boy with his beloved but often violent father.

The family sometimes found itself in dire straits and Brown started stealing, so trouble with the police inevitably followed.

By the time he reached 19, Brown had accumulated an undesirable CV. He had spent two years in Britain's

toughest borstal, followed by many months in prison and had even been stabbed while in the Merchant Navy.

The young man had been married and divorced, with two children to provide for. When he was released from prison, Brown joined a band and set about touring working men's clubs, determined to escape his deprived lifestyle.

He might have continued a career in music if the band had not split, which prompted him to try his hand at stand-up. Armed with the humour of the docks and a new name, Brown gradually honed his craft in a tough environment and discovered his forte in blue comedy.

An appearance on New Faces in the 70s earned him second place in the show, but he reportedly failed to get past the audition for Opportunity Knocks after saying a**e in the interview.

Despite rarely appearing on mainstream television channels due to his coarse material, he has built up an enormous fan base worldwide and sold millions of DVDs and videos.

His autobiography, Common as Muck, reached number seven in the

Sunday Times Bestsellers List and his influence is felt, albeit indirectly, in contemporary comedy. He has made cameo appearances in cult series League of Gentlemen as the mayor of Royston Vasey, the creepy fictional town named after him.

With his 1995 hit Living Next Door to Alice, recorded as a parody with original band Smokie, he became the first person to take a song with the word f*** in it to number one.

Brown, who is married, was diagnosed with throat cancer at the age of 60 and faced losing the voice that had made his fortune. But he pulled through and fans can experience his inimitable humour first-hand when he visits Chatham.

The show is suitable for over-18s only and people who are easily offended are advised to stay away.

Tickets cost £19/£18. To book, phone the box office on 01634 338338, or visit the website at www.medway.gov.uk/theatres.

ROY CHUBBY BROWN

Thursday, May 15
Central Theatre, Chatham



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DAVE LEE

Saturday, May 3
Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone



PREPARE to rock with laughter when local legend Dave Lee brings his brand of comedy and music to the stage.

Lee will be joined by his new band The Bewildered Gentlemen to provide an evening of great music from the 60s and 70s, along with some big laughs. He describes his musicians as the best in the business, all of whom have been rocking 'since the year dot'. Also on the bill is a special guest, comedian Neil James.

Lee started out in show business as a drummer and released several records before joining a comedy band, where he soon found he had a talent for making people laugh. Numerous television appearances include Des O'Connor Tonight, The Generation Game, Big Break, Live from the Palladium and The Brian Conley Show.

The show starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £14. To book call the box office on 01622 758611 or visit the website at www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk.



MEDWAY SWEEPS FESTIVAL

Saturday to Monday, May 3-5
Rochester Town Centre



JOIN in the fun of the Medway Sweeps Festival when the traditional celebration gets under way this weekend.

Hundreds of years ago, sweeps took advantage of their only chance to leave the dark and dirty chimneys behind with their May Day

festival. Today the three-day festival features a colourful mix of music, dancing and entertainment. More than 60 Morris troupes and entertainers will be performing during the event.

There will also be the Rochester Castle Gardens Concert Marquee which will host three exciting evening concerts, all starting at 7.30pm. On Friday Danny Laine, founder member of Wings, will be playing followed by The Battlefield

Band and The Dealers on Saturday.

Show of Hands will be performing on Sunday, with support from Wheeler Street. There will also be entertainment on Sunday afternoon, when local musicians pay tribute to The Byrds' country classic The Sweetheart of the Rodeo.

For tickets, call the Medway Visitor Information Centre on 01634 843666 or see www.medway.gov.uk/sweepsfestival.

WILD WILLY BARRETT'S SLEEPING DOGZ

Tuesday, May 6
Central Theatre
Chatham



WELCOME to the hilarious and entertaining world of Wild Willy Barrett's Sleeping Dogz.

Multi-instrumentalist Willy Barrett had been best known for his collaborations with John Otway, when his interest in acoustic live music was rekindled by an unlikely source.

Barrett, who lives on a boat in the Grand Union Canal, was enjoying a display of belly dancing in a canal-side pub when he was struck by the sound of the accompanying cello.

He introduced himself to the cellist Mary Holland and recruited old acquaintance John Devine, another multi-

instrumentalist, to form the Sleeping Dogz.

Between them, they play an astonishing array of instruments including guitar, fiddle, cello, banjo, balalaika, uilleann pipes, whistles, harmonium and djembe, to produce their versatile sound that mixes blues, neo-Spanish jazz, rock and folk.

The audience can expect an entertaining mix of wry humour and breathtaking musicianship when the band arrives at Medway Folk Cellar next week.

They will be joined on the bill by the Hot Rats Duo.

The concert starts at 8pm and tickets cost £7 or £6 for folk mailing list members and Friends of the Central Theatre.

To book call the box office on 01634 338338 or see www.medway.gov.uk/theatres.

MEDWAY LEISURE

Fuse your music with a festival opportunity

YOUNG musicians are offered the chance to get on stage during the Fuse Medway Festival.

Selected bands will have the chance to support nationally acclaimed local acts such as Lupen Crook and Brigadier Ambrose during the festival, which runs from May 31 to June 14. Musicians must be aged between 14 and 21.

To enter, entry forms can be obtained online at www.fusefestival.org.uk or by calling 01634 338319.

Country singer opts for Chatham over Nashville

OLLIE Austin and his All Star Band will be in Chatham on Wednesday, May 7.

The English country singer's career spans 40 years and has included numerous invitations to visit Nashville, the home of country music. But Austin prefers to stay in England and he will be visiting the Brook Theatre with his Best of Friends tour next week.

The concert is at 7.30pm, tickets £10.50. Call 01634 338338 or see www.medway.gov.uk/theatres.

Jazz up your evening with some live music

JAZZ fans are invited to an evening of great live music, courtesy of The Donn Barcott Band.

The seven-piece band will be performing in the Southall Function Suite of the 4-4-2 Club in Featherby Road, Gillingham, on Thursday, May 8.

The concert will run from 8pm to 11pm and tickets cost £5. For more information call the jazz line on 01634 405037.

Historic Dockyard to host steamy weekend

IT will be full steam ahead for a great day out at the Historic Dockyard, Chatham, this weekend.

The Dockyard in Steam weekend runs from Saturday to Bank Holiday Monday, offering visitors the chance to see the fascinating dockyard locomotives.

The Historic Dockyard is open daily from 10am to 6pm. Tickets cost £13.50/£11 for adults, £9 for children and £38 for families of four. For more information see www.chdt.org.uk or call 01634 823800.

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MEDWAY SHOPPING

Three-for-twos make the perfect match

BOOTS is offering a three-for-two mix-and-match offer on more than 1,000 facial skincare products.

L'Oreal, Nivea and Olay products are included in the deal, along with many other top brands, at stores across Medway – including Chatham's Pentagon Centre and Hempstead Valley in Gillingham.

Boots is also offering three-for-two offers on selected No 7 creams, giving shoppers the chance to try out their best-selling Protect and Perfect range.

More details at www.boots.com.

How to look good without being naked

SHOPPERS can get top tips from a celebrity stylist at a high street retailer.

Channel 4 fashion guru Gok Wan has teamed up with Dorothy Perkins to bring its customers styling advice and fashion tips.

Tea dresses, fitted jackets, flare jeans and full skirts are amongst the 'in' items recommended this summer.

For more information pop into the Chatham High Street or Hempstead Valley stores, or visit www.dorothyperkins.com.

Style need not cost a fortune this summer

MEN wanting to look good this summer without breaking the bank are invited down to Burton.

The popular men's clothing stores in Chatham High Street and at Hempstead Valley in Gillingham are offering a great range of smart shirts, casual T-shirts and jackets at affordable prices in its 70 per cent off sale.

Socks, swim shorts, boxers and jeans are also on offer.

For more information see in-store or log on to www.burton.co.uk.

Light up your life with offers for your home

PEOPLE giving their homes a spring makeover should check out the 'up to half price lighting sale' at BHS.

The department store at Hempstead Valley in Gillingham has huge savings on lamps, ceiling lights, pendants and spotlights, as well as lamp bases and shades.

With hundreds of products on offer, the store promises there will be something for everyone.

For more information see in store or log on to www.bhs.co.uk.

Great savings on DVDs and CDs at music stores

MUSIC and film fanatics are advised to check out the sale at HMV.

The stores at Fremlin Walk in Maidstone and at Bluewater are offering customers up to 70 per cent off selected CDs and DVDs, including titles such as Sister Act, Die Hard and The Simpsons Movie.

Scouting for Girls, Nickelback, The Enemy, Take That, and Amy Winehouse are just some of the CDs on offer.

For more details visit www.hmv.com.



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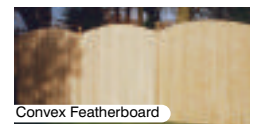
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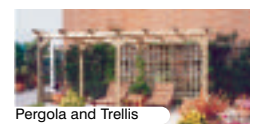
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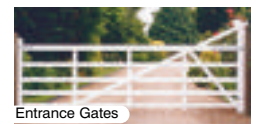
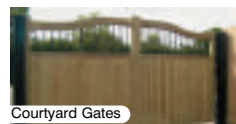
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yourmedwaymusic

More Power to Vince's back to basics ethos

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

CHANGE is a wonderful thing. While there's something to be said for tradition and the tried and tested "If it ain't broke..." approach to life, I'm a firm believer in trying new things.

It is with this in mind that I tip my cap to the fantastically named Vince Power, the man orchestrating the inaugural Hop Farm Festival.

Power has lured the likes of Neil Young, Rufus Wainwright, Supergrass and Guillemots into performing at the Paddock Wood one-day with the promise of: "No sponsorship, no branding and no registration".

Writing on the official festival website about his shift away from commercially dominated festivals, Power said: "I've been watching the festival market and just felt it was frustrating for the punter that there was such a big emphasis on sponsorship, VIP and upgrading your ticket to get into a special area."

"We did an online survey and the feedback among young fans was that often the person

buying the ticket ended up feeling the lowest on the pecking order. I thought it was time to go back to basics and let it be about the punter and the music. I think you will see a complete change in festivals in the next two or three years.

"Bands rely on live performances much more than they did in previous years, the market is changing and I think bigger bands will have a lot more input into the festivals because it is clear that they could do their own festivals if they want to."

"I'm getting really good feedback from the artists and the agents. It's about having a good festival, happy customers and happy artists."

The open-air Hop Farm Festival takes place on Sunday, June 6, with gates opening at 11.30am.

At the time of going to press, the Neil Young-headed line-up also features Primal Scream, Supergrass, My Morning Jacket, Rufus Wainwright and Guillemots. At

least one further act is yet to be named. My Guess Those Bands prediction (the new festival line-up game which is sweeping the county since its inception on this page last week) is Belinda Carlisle.

Tickets cost £49.50, plus a booking fee. For more information, visit the website www.hopfarmfestival.com.



EARLY BIRDS: Guillemots are also on the Hop Farm Festival bill



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YOUR TV REVIEW

BY TOM BETTS

CHILD GENIUS AT THIRTEEN
Channel 4, 9pm, Wednesday
SHIPWRECKED: BATTLE OF THE ISLANDS
Channel 4, 12.55pm, Sunday

CHANNEL FOUR often brings us the best and worst television of the week.

In the red corner, and fighting for the better, more enlightening side of entertainment, is *Child Genius At Thirteen*.

This fascinating show charted the lives of three uber-intelligent teenagers as they came to terms with the fact that they made the rest of us look like plankton.

We met Michael and Dante, who, with IQs of 170 (the highest the scale goes up to) made Aimee, their compatriot in all things clever, look like a relative dunce, even if she was bemoaning the fact that her parents hadn't read *War And Peace*.

Michael, an author at nine and lover of particle physics, was a game chap, and his mum said: "I think the day is coming when he realises he's more intelligent than we are."

Someone really should tell her that day came and went a few years ago.

But it was Dante, a lad who will either go on to become the Prime Minister or a serial killer, who was the star of the show.

Not only was he clever beyond belief but he had the best line in put-downs.

On learning that he had taken a replica firearm to school following a trip to Paris with fellow mega-brain Michael, his mother explained: "Your therapist didn't think you were dangerous."

"Well, at least we know he's accurate..." replied the intelligent rapscaillon.



A FLESH BUNCH: The only reason to watch *Shipwrecked* is to enjoy the rather fine view

Wishing they could come up with something anywhere near as intelligent are the contestants in the blue corner, the sun-kissed hunks and honeys on the channel's *Shipwrecked: Battle of the Islands*.

Perfect hangover TV, this is ultimately just about watching sexy young things cavort about on the beach in various states of undress.

We are introduced to spoilt brats, working-class heroes and middle-class art students, but really the one thing they have in common is that they all look rather amazing in swimwear.

The format, now in its third series, once held a novelty value as you fought off that headache but has grown very tiresome and is now just going through the reality TV motions.

There is little here to get your teeth into and it makes the *Hollyoaks* omnibus that precedes it look like *Shakespeare*.

Send Dante, Michael and Aimee to an island somewhere – it would be much better viewing.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

IT'S possible you'll be clinging a bit more tightly to the ones you love. Normally, you're a cool customer, preferring to keep your feelings hidden but now you're determined to show your family you care. This is an excellent time to mend broken fences. The secret to your success is sincerity.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

YOU'LL be more assertive than usual in romantic situations. Fortunately, the object of your affection will be delighted. After first contact, it may be impossible to tear yourself out of their arms. Money is a concern. If you're due a raise, schedule a meeting with your boss.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

YOU'RE reserved, and with good reason. It's not clear whether you can trust someone yet: wait and see. You'll get more insight to this person's character by watching their actions. It looks as though your career is starting to take off: a promotion, or raise could be in the cards.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

PARTNERSHIPS take on a tender aspect. This would be a good time to get engaged, married or enter into a business relationship with someone who more like a friend than a colleague. Stretch funds as far as they will go, you may be able to afford something special later.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

YOU'LL be something of a social butterfly in the days ahead. Meeting people could inspire you. You're starting to realise just how boring life can be without intellectual stimulation. Studying art, music, or dance might be just your cup of tea. Take a friend's compliment to heart. They mean it.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

SENSITIVITY lets you get closer to someone you love. You know their feelings before they say a word. Be ready to relieve your amour of a dreaded chore. They'll be grateful for your sacrifice. Whether you want a raise, date, or job, you can find success. Your gift with words is key.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

YOUR flirtatious ways could get you in trouble if you're not careful. Although you're just playing around with someone, they think you're serious. It may be necessary to put some distance between you. If you keep leading this person astray, your friendship could be permanently damaged.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

WHEN it comes to romance, hold back. It's not time to approach someone you fancy. Work demands may be so great you won't have time to. Colleagues appreciate your willingness to put in extra hours. They also like the respectful way you conduct yourself. Little do they know!

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

DIRECT works best. If you have a crush on someone, make your feelings known. You won't have to use lots of pretty words to win this person's heart. In fact, the more plainly you speak, the better. It will be easier to afford luxuries than it has in the past. Be sure to buy something nice for yourself.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

YOU don't care what people think, which makes you popular so don't be surprised if you're invited to lots of parties. If you're single, let a friend set you up on a blind date. You might just meet someone sexy. Working on a writing project could prove rewarding, but hide it until late May.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

AN intense relationship is heating up even more. It may be impossible to resist someone's charms. You melt every time they whisper in your ear or gaze into your eyes. This would be a good time to discuss moving in together. Taking a trip overseas will put your romance into proper perspective.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

YOU cause a commotion wherever you go. That's because your sex appeal is at an all time high. If you're single, you could pair up with a much older or younger person. You love their way with words, while they adore your dry wit. Be ready to take a tricky task off your partner's hands.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

Calls cost 75p per minute. Service provided by g8wave London N7

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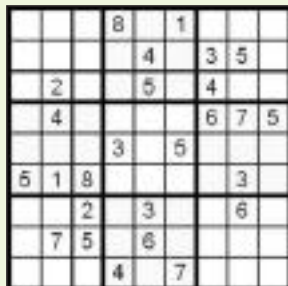
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MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 8 Throwing out the sack (9)
- 9 Orange umbilicus! (5)
- 10 Slavery duties rev. avoided (9)
- 11 Beast that's husky-sounding (5)
- 12 The price of abandoning one's policy (9,5)
- 15 Ushered her out exhausted (4)
- 17 Michael's said to be rebelling producing confused jumble (3-2)
- 19 Shrewd publicity needed by drug addict? (4)
- 21 Was key gunfight developing in November? (3,6,5)
- 23 Element found in the comet, aluminium (5)
- 24 A boned bra surprisingly contained vegetable (5-4)
- 26 Tidy hospital in South Wales (5)
- 27 Record colourful item of ill-repute (9)

DOWN

- 1 Possibly sees about 90 too many (6)
- 2 How note shook? (8)
- 3 Mother is developing the line (8)
- 4 Confident that it is standing out (4)
- 5 In rancho Vyvyan found small fish (7)
- 6 Be unduly optimistic about theatrical show (8)
- 7 Sad boy flagged on board (4,5)
- 13 Dick, see said kettle (5)
- 14 Sentence arbiter intended, so to speak (9)
- 16 I pay gent, another North African (8)
- 18 Self-abasement gripped last character in Cornish resort (8)
- 19 Lofty had been brought up having noble parents (4-4)
- 20 Cry at Holly discordantly (5-2)
- 22 Jerk included prank that was very sad (6)
- 25 Bird run over by train (4)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 5 Tripping (9)
- 9 Pique (anag.) (5)
- 10 Wordiness (9)
- 11 Glacial ridge (5)
- 12 Offer for sale (3,2,3,6)
- 15 S-shaped curve (4)
- 17 Obliquely (5)
- 19 Former Indian coin (4)
- 21 Songbird (5,9)
- 23 Giddy (5)
- 24 Moving forwards (9)
- 26 Stocking material (5)
- 27 Supreme (9)

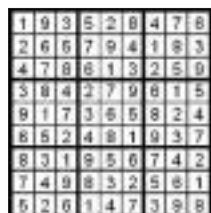
DOWN

- 1 Purist (anag.) (4,2)
- 2 Egg dish (8)
- 3 Plant with bell-shaped flowers (8)
- 4 Bloodsucker (4)
- 5 Old soldier (7)
- 6 Soft leather (8)
- 7 Religious song (9)
- 13 Walked across country (5)
- 14 Driving stolen car (9)
- 16 Misappropriate (8)
- 18 Prosaic (8)
- 19 Held fast (2,6)
- 20 Unceasing (7)
- 22 Occupier (6)
- 25 Inattentive (4)

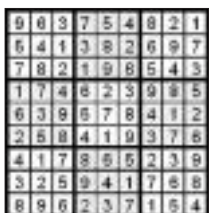
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No32

EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No34

ACROSS: 1 Hospital 6 Recipe 9 Jasper 10 Gomorrah 11 Quarterlight 13 Fried 14 Greenroom 17 Neckcloth 19 Waxen 21 Spirited away 24 Spectral 25 Brazil 26 Crayon 27 Retrench. DOWN: 2 Oval 3 Pipsqueak 4 Tartan 5 Legator 6 Remark 7 Corgi 8 Peashooter 12 Order-paper 15 Ready-made 16 Flatiron 18 Tiddler 20 Two-bit 22 Rocky 23 Zinc.

QUICK SOLUTION No35

Undying 22 Tenant 25 Deal Embzezz 18 Workaday 19 At anchor 20 Spiritual 13 Hiked 14 Joyriding 16 Gloxinia 4 Gnat 5 Veteran 6 Buckskin 7 Paramount. DOWN: 1 Stir up 2 Omlette 3 Dizzy 24 Advancing 26 Nylon 27 Askew 19 Anna 21 Robin redbreast 23 11 Esker 12 Put on the market 15 Ogee 17 9 Equip 10 Prohibit 8 Stumbling 9 Equip 10 Prohibit

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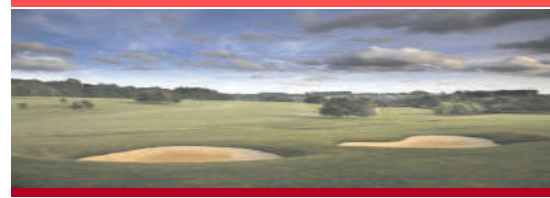
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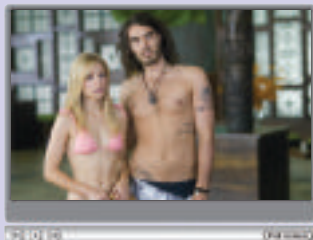
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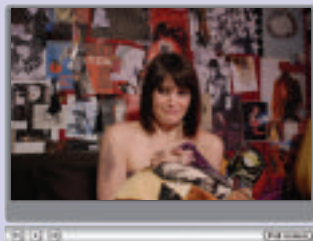
Struggling musician Peter Bretter has spent six years idolising his girlfriend, TV star Sarah Marshall. He's the guy left holding her purse in paparazzi photos and accidentally omitted from acceptance speeches. But his world is rocked when she dumps him and Peter finds himself alone. Russell Brand stars as Sarah's new love – a British rock star.

PERSEPOLIS (12A)



Film-makers Vincent Paronnaud and Marjane Satrapi got together to co-write and co-direct this adaptation of Satrapi's autobiographical graphic novel detailing the trials faced by an outspoken Iranian girl who finds her unique attitude and outlook on life challenged during the Islamic revolution.

THREE AND OUT (15)



You're a London tube driver and you've had two 'one-unders' in as many weeks. You're traumatised but blameless. Then you're told about the 'Three and Out' rule – three fatal accidents within a month and you're out of a job... but with a huge pay-off. What do you do? Take trauma counselling and drive very, very carefully? Or seek out a third one-under, take the cash, pay your debts and retire?

She's a sight for sore eyes

BY KATE WHITING

BEING a Hollywood actress may look like an incredibly glamorous gig, but there's more going on behind the glossy scenes than just having your make-up done.

For her latest role, Jessica Alba had to learn to play the violin like a professional while pretending to be blind – no small feat for any actress.

Chinese horror remake *The Eye* follows blind violinist Sydney Wells (Jessica) as she has a cornea transplant and adapts to her newly-acquired sight.

But her comfortable life is shattered when she takes on the traits of her dead donor, including disturbing flashbacks and the power to see ghosts.

Jessica, 26, reveals the intensive training she undertook at orientation centres in Los Angeles and New Mexico to prepare for the role.

"I learned basic Braille reading, how to walk with a cane and how people live in their homes self-sufficiently," she said.

"I labelled everything in my house so I could walk freely wearing sleep shades."

It seems her hard work paid off when she started filming because she couldn't see much through eerie grey contact lenses.

"They covered my entire eye – I had no peripheral vision and sometimes partial vision."

Having learnt to live without sight, Jessica then had to tackle the violin.

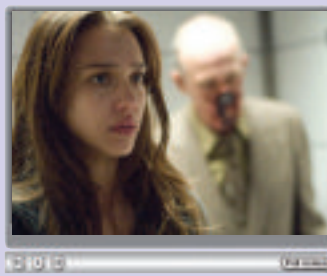
"It was the most difficult instrument on the planet," she said, laughing.

"I did six months of extensive training with five different women who have been playing since they were kids."

"They still practise eight hours a day just to stay good enough to be in an orchestra."

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"I just don't have that kind of dedication."

But she did commit to the task, practising whenever she could, even during breaks from filming *Fantastic Four: Rise Of The Silver Surfer*.

"I didn't have time to take off that suit, so in my Storm outfit I was hacking away at the violin," she said.

In a nod to movie *The Sixth Sense*, Sydney's developing vision allows her to see dead people – from the little boy in the corridor by her apartment to the diners in the burned-out Chinese restaurant.

At first she thinks she's going mad, but with the help of Dr Paul Faulkner (Alessandro Nivola), Sydney finally works out she is experiencing a real-life phenomenon called cellular memory, where transplant recipients display the characteristics of their donors.

"I met a guy who loved sweets and hated Italian food and he said after his liver trans-



SOUND AND VISION: Jessica Alba had to have training to learn what it's like to be blind and play the violin

plant, he didn't pick up a single sweet ever again and all he could eat was pizza and pasta.

"He spoke to the mother of his donor, who was a 16-year-old boy – hated sweets and his favourite food was pizza and pasta."

Jessica has one more movie coming out this year – *The Love Guru*, with Justin Timberlake, Mike Myers and Ben Kingsley.

But as her first baby with fiancé Cash Warren is due any time now – she was heavily pregnant when she spoke – she is taking a well-earned break from filming.

"I still feel like I'm just starting. Most actresses that I really love hit their stride in their 30s and 40s and I'm hoping that will be the case for me."

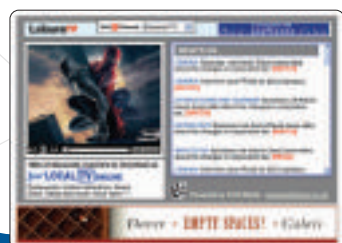


THE EYE
Certificate 15

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V2 site fires imagination

BY NICK AMES

IF THE idea of a short break in a city doesn't appeal and you fancy a little history, then just over the Channel is one of the most unusual tourist attractions in Europe.

La Coupole, near St Omer, a 45-minute drive from Calais, was the site developed by the Nazis to house and launch their V2 rockets during World War Two.

It may not be everyone's choice of a short break, but it remains fascinating, none-the-less.

It was a concrete dome protecting underground galleries and built by slave labour using eastern European prisoners.

But a combination of air attacks and a breakdown in infrastructure meant it was never used.

Now it is a museum attracting an increasing number of visitors from the UK courtesy of Kent's excellent links with northern France by road, ferry and rail.

Exhibits detail the workings of the Nazi slave state and the history of rocket engineering. Highlighted is the man who designed

the V2 – German Dr Werhner Von Braun, who was taken away at the end of the war by the Americans.

Soberingly, any visitor soon realises the brutalising tactics employed by the Nazis did result in men standing on the moon as Von Braun masterminded the Apollo programme and eventually designed the Saturn V rocket.

There's plenty more, however, to educate visitors through the other exhibits.

Firstly, the Nazi occupation of northern France and the construction of the massive concrete dome and the galleries underneath.

Harrowing footage of the concentration camps and the results of the bombing to which the British and Americans subjected towns in northern France is also documented, as are the conditions in which slave workers were kept.

I was told increased numbers of people coming into western Europe from the old Eastern Bloc meant tourists from some of the places the slave workers were taken from were ever-increasing.

The concrete dome of La Coupole proved resistant to almost everything the RAF could throw at it from the air.



UNUSUAL ATTRACTION: La Coupole, near St Omer, was built with slave labour

But the facilities, designed to store and fire the V2 rockets at London and Kent, were never used.

Instead mobile sites were used to fire the missiles as they were harder to detect than the large-scale fortified sites.

Near to La Coupole is Foret de Nieppe, which was a hidden base firing V1 flying bombs – the forerunner of the V2 – at England. It was the only operational base of its kind and included bunkers and a command centre.

The craters, filled with water, are evidence of RAF-USAF bombs which were dropped on the launch site.

It's not the most clearly sign-posted site and is accessible only by road, but it is extremely atmospheric – there is no entry fee and visitors can wander at will amid the trees to explore underground galleries and hidden bunkers.

The launch site is also still there – and chillingly it points straight at Tower Bridge, according to French experts.

FACT FILE: FRANCE

Time difference	UK +1 hour
Capital	Paris
Population	60 million
Currency	Euro (1.6 to £1 approx)
Religion	Christian (mainly Catholic)
Climate	Temperate
Religion	Christian (mainly Catholic)
Language	French

Holiday details

Travel to France via ferries from Dover to Calais. Operators include P&O, Norfolk Line and SeaFrance, all of which run regular services.

Car traffic can also use Eurotunnel services, which terminate just outside Calais.

The two attractions are about 40km from the French port just outside the town of St Omer, which has a selection of accommodation at various prices.

A tour around the museum takes about two hours, and guides are available in English.



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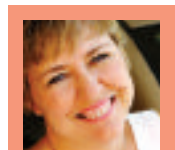


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WOMEN'S SPOTLIGHT

OUTGOING AND FUN
Beautiful African lady, 21. I'm looking for an outgoing, fun guy, 23-32, for fun and friendship, and maybe more. Box 439543

MISSING YOU
Tanya here, have a good family, good job, good friends and looking for a good laugh. I'm 25 and would love to meet you! Box 89329

NOT AFRAID OF HARD WORK?
Lively female, 26, 5'2", brown hair, green eyes, size 10, single mum, enjoys most things, seeks genuine, laid-back guy, for fun, friendship and more. Box 428555

TAKE ME OUT
Fun, flirtative female, nearly 30, petite with dark hair, bored of being single, seeking someone to take me out and show me a good time. Box 893549

HEIGH-HO!
Calling all knights in shining armour! Damsel in distress, 30, needs rescuing. I can't guarantee love, but can guarantee laughs. Box 894062

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NOT PICKY!

Upbeat girl, 31, bored silly and just looking for friends to go out and have a laugh with, nothing else. Preferably stingers in the Canterbury. Box 895165

EXPRESSLY YOURS

31yo Chinese girl, 5'4", slim, no children, seeking tall, white, loving, caring, all-Eastern male for serious relationship. Box 439291

LADY MADONNA

Single Mum of 2, 35, great SOH, works full time, seeking male with GSOH, fun-loving and romantic, for possible relationship. Box 439417

UNDER THE BOARDWALK

Black female, 32, 5'6", likes cooking, reading, going out, WILTM a nice man 34-50, down-to-earth and fun to be with, to find out more. Box 439585

MY CHERYL AMOUR!

Hi! I'm Cheryl, 31, 5'6", blonde, size 10, have 2 girls, like walking, the gym and socialising, seeking a similar male for potential partnership. Box 437744

ALL IN GOOD TIME

Tall, black, pretty female, 31, new to the Chatham area, loves watching football, shopping, travel, seeking tall, white, loving male 34-47 for LTR. Box 437778

ARE YOU MR RIGHT?

Single Mum, 30, 5'2", short brown hair, petite, loves pubs, clubs, eating out, nights in, seeking Mr Right for friendship, maybe more. Box 437895

TAKE ME OUT

Single Mum, 32, cuddly larger lady, 5'8", dark brown hair, seeking someone to have fun, a dance, some drinks, meals and more with. Box 439841

LIVE, LAUGH & LOVE

Lively, attractive female, 32, 5'5", looking to meet that someone special to share life, laughter and love. Box 429124

CUDDLY

32yr old woman, 5'6", brown hair, curly, I enjoy having fun and a laugh, and WILTM nice, kind gent. Box 439402

EQUESTRIAN OF SPORT!

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

CANTERBURY TALE

Single mum of 2, 32, would like to meet someone kind, caring and considerate, for nights into and cinema. Box 406070

TRY NEW THINGS

Mum of 1, 1m 5'4", blonde hair, slim, young-looking 34, I'm caring, honest with a GSOH. I like keep-fit, cinema, dancing, days out. Box 431559

R U THE 1?

Outgoing, funny, young-looking female, 34, 5'6", brown hair, blonde eyes, single Mum, seeking male 36-40, honest, kind, caring, for potential romance. Box 439329

MUM'S THE WORD

Attractive black female, 36, 5'8", slim-medium build, short dark brown hair, brown eyes, single Mum, seeking male 36-40, honest, kind, caring, for potential romance. Box 439329

THE GENTLE LADY

Easygoing female with GSOH, 36, enjoys many things - going out, staying in, seeking a nice, genuine guy for lots of love/laughter. Box 437913

IT'S WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT!

47yo female, blonde hair, 5'6", slim, easygoing, enjoys many things in life, looking for someone similar to there to enjoy life with. Box 436810

NO GAME PLAYERS!

I'm 46, Music, laughing, sensitivity, and love, I guess that's what I want, but with someone special, are you? Box 156956

ON A PLATE

Caring, honest 46yr old female, 5'2", eyes of blue, redhead. Likes cinema, theatre, walking. WILTM male for fun and friendship. Box 439528

SOFA SO GOOD!

Sally, 46yr old woman, small and slim, brown hair with hazel eyes, likes music, films, animals, enjoys days out and snuggling on the sofa. Box 893566

DON'T PASS ME BY

Friendly, bubbly, fun-loving woman, 45, 5'4", GSOH, enjoys socialising, pubs, music, eating in/out, own home/car, smoker, looking for honest man 44-55, who enjoys life. Box 824441

SHINE A LIGHT ON ME

I'm Dawn, 47, quite shy and reserved, looking for someone special. I'm 5'6", blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, active, have one dog, work full time. Box 438795

READY TO START AGAIN

Hi! I'm Sue, 48, 5'2", dark hair/eyes, divorced, hard-working, WILTM compatible male, stocky build, for good times, possibly LTR. Box 432992

ALONG THE SHORE

Fun loving 48yr old woman, I enjoy winning and dining, romantic strolls. WILTM handsome, caring, adventurous man. 45-50 Box 439554

HUNK SOUGHT

Marlene, 46, blonde, medium build, likes 4x4s, the gym, quad-biking, a glass of wine, cinema, 5'9", bubbly/cocky, WILTM sincere youngish guy for friendship/companionship and who knows. Box 894117

THE WIT TO WHOT!

Kent female, 38, 5'7", dark eyes, GSOH, no ties, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks loyal, caring male, for friendship. Box 152882

NO REGRETS

Bubbly, separated female, 40, slim, love meeting new people and enjoying life, looking for an understanding man for happiness. Box 895246

NEVER SAY NEVER

Decent 36yr old female, medium build, fair hair, 5'6", likes cinema, eating, having fun, seeks like-minded male, 36-40, for friendship first. Box 739561

ACTIVE ANGEL

Hi, I'm a fun-loving woman early 40, 5'1", curly, enjoy eating out and cooking to walking, looking for man for friendship. Box 894396

YOU'LL SMILE IF YOU DIAL

Bubbly 40yr old female, enjoys beaches, pubs, clubs, WILTM a like-minded, caring male to share fun times with. Box 435102

ROUND TWO

41yr old female, separated with 3 children, medium build, dark hair, seeking a male to share life with again who enjoys socialising, cinema, music and holidays. Box 437639

FOREVER YOURS

I'm Caroline, 42, single mum, likes having fun, eating out, wine bars, swimming, looking for someone for something meaningful. Box 430952

ON THE WINGS OF LOVE

Tall, outgoing lady, 43, large build, newly settled in Kent, needs to spread her wings and meet a nice chap. Let's chat. Box 895908

ATTRACTIVE BRUNETTE

Fun-loving, affectionate brunette, 42, size 12, N/S, separated amicably with 2 lovely kids, enjoys keeping fit. Seeks good-looking, slim, fit, romantic male. Box 814378

COMPLETE

Bubbly female, 41, 5'2", N/S, enjoys pubs, restaurants, cinema. GSOH, interior design, seeks like-minded, fun male for good times. Box 822705

TAKE A CHANCE

Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE?

One woman, 45, no ties, one tie, honest, warm and kind. Are you tall, honest, motivated, and genuine? If so get in touch... Box 918163

IT'S IN THE AIR

Lovely female, 49, divorced, 5'2", shoulder-length blonde hair, green eyes, size 16, likes dining out, staying in, seeks similar LTR with similar male. Box 437729

HERE WE GO

Young female, 50, 5'6", slim, bubbly, outgoing, GSOH, loves animals, walks, eating out, nights in with friends, seeks genuine male 45-55 for friendship. Box 439601

ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK

Loving, lively, cuddly female, 50, 5'4", loves rock music, walking, films, WILTM easygoing male for uncomplicated relationship, good times. Box 894299

THE LIGHT OF LOVE

50 year old woman, hard working, caring, divorced, looking to have that sparkle back in my life, can provide sex. Box 893611

BRIGHTON UP MY WORLD

Loving and loyal 50yr old female, GSOH, enjoys walking, countryside, cinema, theatre, pubs, restaurants, music, travel, seeks sincere and loving male between 48-56 for friendship. Box 909974

SEEKING MR RIGHT

I'm Karen, 51, 5'6", blonde/blue, medium build, GSOH, considerate, like keeping fit, romantic nights in/out, bowling, tennis, lots of sports, seeking male for relationship. Box 893277

ARE YOU LONESOME TONIGHT?

Loyal, bubbly and affectionate, attractive lady, 51, dark hair, enjoys clubs, nights in, low animals, seeking a like-minded gent for happiness. Box 433585

WHITESTABLE WONDERLAND

Hi! I'm Yvette, 50, separated, blonde hair/blue eyes, size 12-12.5, likes cinema, meals and drinks out, reading, walks, looking for male, 40-60, for relationship. Box 820160

A STROLL IN THE GARDEN

51yr old young female, separated, 2 grown-up children, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes gardening, reading, travelling, seeking a nice gent for company and perhaps more. Box 439670

PUTTER IN YOUR HANDS!

Sporty female, 50, Hastings-based, 5'9", bubbly/cocky, WILTM sincere youngish guy for friendship/companionship and who knows. Box 894117

LOVE CANNOT BE BOUGHT

Happy 41, youthful 48yr old single woman, OHAC, very good sense of humour. Likes all the normal social things. Very honest. Seeking sincere, stable, loving man. Box 895929

SHE'S THE ONE!

Young-at-heart female, 48, medium build, 5'10", dark hair, blue eyes, GSOH, very active, likes clubs and dining out, seeks someone with similar interests. Box 435098

JUST IMAGINE

Petite brunette, bubbly and friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WILTM genuine male to see what life takes us! Box 893562

ALL THAT TAKES

Young-looking, slim, attractive female, 48, fun-loving and outgoing, N/S, GSOH, love music, holidays, going out and staying in, seeks similar man, 42-50, Aylesford. Box 428833

DIG DEEPER

Genuine, friendly female, 49, likes walks, gardening, nights in, seeking genuine, friendly male, 45-55. Dover Box 435441

ENTERTAIN ME

50yo female, medium build, blonde, outgoing, GSOH, loves animals, seeks genuine guy for regular dining, dining and laughing, honest, genuine and loving. Box 438651

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KENT CALLING!

Hi, I'm a good looking, attractive lady, 53yr young, 5'7", brown hair/eyes, GSOH, enjoys walks, reading, travelling, WILTM tall, considerate man for friendship. LTR. Box 439240

INDEPENDENT WOMAN

Bright, bubbly lady, 52, 5'4", blonde hair, recently divorced, own home and car, enjoys cinema, eating out, seeks like-minded, bubbly female, 40-55, for fun and more. Box 435191

EVERYDAY PEOPLE

Happy divorced female, 56, 5'4", slim, blonde hair, blue eyes, attractive, intelligent, likes a laugh, the cinema, cooking, walks, WILTM compatible male for everyday romance... Box 439321

LIKES THE NICE THINGS IN LIFE

Divorced female, 50, 5'8", own home, great job and friends, likes to keep fit, hobbies include shopping, cooking, dining out, theatre/cinema, holidays, seeking friendship and more. Box 434901

FRIENDS FIRST

Sincere female, 57, caring, separated, I enjoy nights in/out, reading, walking, various activities, just separated, seeking a friend and the see from there! Box 437420

COUNTRY LOVE

Partially disabled 58yr old country woman, 5'5", fairly attractive, enjoys gardening, home life, WILTM country loving man for company and possibly LTR. Box 439605

PUT SPARK INTO LIFE

Gary, contented solo lady, 59, N/S, living in the country near Hythe, seeks gentleman of similar disposition and means. Box 897822

LET'S GO!



PROPERTY NEWS

Greener houses will look good and keep out the heat

PROPERTIES being developed will have an increased number of eco-friendly features – but they may not be immediately visible according to a developer.

GreenMoves, which specialises in environmentally-friendly developments, said facilities to collect rainwater, better insulation and triple glazing will all be incorporated in new designs.

They will be built alongside features such as solar panels.

French-style external shutters could also be added to keep out heat in an effort to combat hotter summers.

Julian Brooks, managing director of the company, said the shutters would keep buildings cool in hot weather – especially with top quality insulation.

Other experts have stated that the absence of too many visual elements will keep buildings looking attractive and not spoil aesthetic elements.

A recent survey undertaken by DIY store B&Q found that eight out of ten people questioned would be willing to pay more for a greener home.

Gateway building still top agenda item in county

HOUSEBUILDING remains high on the political agenda despite a predicted slump in the property market.

The county remains a building hotspot with the proposed developments along the Thames Gateway and areas surrounding Ashford one of the Government's highest-profile construction projects.

Ministers remain committed to the project – which includes prestige developments along the riverfront in Rochester and large-scale building between Medway and London – despite fears of an economic downturn.

Rupert Bates, editorial director of Showhouse.co.uk, a development website, said: "I've never known a time where housebuilding has been so high on political and social agendas."

He added that the issues under discussion included debates over the number of houses needed and their impact on the countryside.

Mortgage relief hope to boost housing market

CHEAPER mortgages are on their way as the Government fights to protect the housing market.

The credit crunch has led to gloomy predictions of a slump across the property industry and a fall in prices.

But according to the Council of Mortgage Lenders more competitive rates will be made available "in due course".

Experts say this is particularly good news for first-time buyers, who often feel the squeeze when the market is at its most volatile.

The statement from the influential financial group comes after a meeting between Chancellor of the Exchequer Alistair Darling and Housing Minister Caroline Flint, which Mr Darling called following the introduction of the Bank of England's £50 billion bond scheme to prop up the flagging market.

■ BY NICK AMES

Bosses at the CML said the move would improve confidence and enable the market to become more fluid – in other words make buying and selling more attractive and convenient.

Following the Bank's announcement Mr Darling called top mortgage industry executives to his Downing Street office to discuss what steps they can take to ensure repossessions don't start to rise – because consumers are finding it hard to refinance their loans.

New mortgage applicants and what could be done to help them were also on the agenda.

"I hope that lenders continue to take their responsibilities towards customers seriously," Mr Darling said.

In a joint statement after the meeting, the lenders agreed that the plan by the Bank of England



PROTECTION: Chancellor Alistair Darling has announced measures which should allow banks to resume offering a better deal for those looking for mortgages

to allow banks to swap what could be hard-to-shift mortgage assets for Government money which would need to be repaid – but in a better financial climate – would help ease funding pressures and ultimately allow them to offer cheaper loans.

"The Bank's actions should ease funding conditions for mortgage lenders over time to help to ensure the continued availability of a wide range of mortgages for potential borrowers at competi-

tive prices," Michael Coogan, director-general of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, said.

Mr Darling has pursued a steady policy in attempting to get lenders to agree to lower interest rates following the move by the Bank of England.

The Bank of England has cut interest rates three times since December to shore up the economy, but a number of mortgage lenders have been raising the cost of their home loan products.

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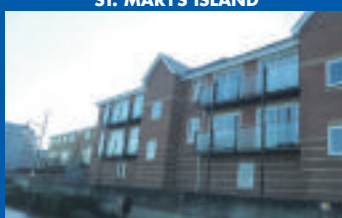
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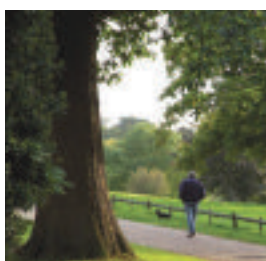
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MOTORS NEWS



Trust shows its trust in Motorline's vans

KENT'S Paula Carr Trust has bought its seventh Renault Master from Motorline Ashford.

The mobile eye screening charity for diabetic patients across Kent was formed in 1989 in memory of Paula Carr, who died from diabetes at 13, and it operates from bases at Ashford and Maidstone.

Its new Master van was customised by Euromotive of Lympne and handed over by Daniel John of Motorline to Pamela Walsh from the Trust.

She said: "They (Motorline) always have the vans ready for us in record time and we plan to keep using them as our supplier in the future should our van fleet need expanding."



New Focus sporting flagship out now

FORD dealers across Kent can expect a renewed rush for the latest Focus ST – reckoned to be the best hot hatch on the UK market, pound for pound.

The new version available from tomorrow, Thursday, suits the big lower grille sported by the facelift Focus range since January and starts at £18,250.

But the big selling point is the turbocharged 223bhp 2.5-litre five-cylinder engine, with sporty soundtrack, 150mph top speed and 0-62mph acceleration in just 6.8 seconds. The car also rides on smart 18-inch alloys.



Leon boosted for more power, less emissions

SMALL turbocharged petrol engines are becoming the smart way for carmakers to retain power output yet slash emissions.

This has been underlined by the latest SEAT Leon model; the 1.4-litre TSI (from £13,755) offers 123bhp against 100bhp from the existing and similarly priced 'un-blown' 1.6-litre Leon, does 0-62mph in 9.8 seconds rather than 11.7, has diesel-style direct injection for low-down punch and delivers lower emissions, placing the car in road tax band-D (£145/year) – the 1.6 is band-E (£170).



ROOM FOR MANOEUVRE: The MINI Clubman offers more space to buyers, and promises to hold its value so well that motoring is cheaper than with some of its industry rivals

Spacious Clubman hits MINI growth target

FOR all its marvellous packaging and driving fun, BMW's reborn MINI is not that spacious, largely due to modern crash protection.

BMW has tried addressing this with the Clubman (from £14,235) costing around £1,200 more than equivalent MINI hatches.

It is 24cm longer – eight bringing more rear legroom – and boot space is up 100 litres to 260.

The car's retro effect is maintained by side-opening back doors à la original 1960s Mini Traveller/Countryman estates.

But the single side door to the rear seats is on the 'wrong' side, BMW opting to please left-hand drive markets by having the extra door on the offside, so rear passengers will probably tilt the front passenger seat and enter and exit via the car's front nearside door.

But few would-be buyers actually care about the 'Big Door Debate' says Broad Oak MINI at Ashford's Orbital Park.

"Yes, it's pretty much the first thing people say if they're here to look at the hatchback, but it's the last if they're here for a Clubman."

ROAD TEST MINI CLUBMAN

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

"They tend to like the Clubman look and the extra room and see the door as a bonus," said site manager Juliet Foreman.

Broad Oak loaned us a Cooper entry model for our test, but there is also a diesel Cooper D (£15,400) and turbocharged Cooper S (£17,210).

None are slouches – even the 110bhp diesel hits 62mph in 10.4 seconds – and they are greener too thanks to BMW/MINI's new 'efficient dynamics', including 'Auto Start-Stop', which stops the engine automatically when the car halts and neutral is selected, restarting when the clutch pedal is depressed.

There is also 'brake energy regeneration' to recharge the battery and relieve the alternator's demand on the engine.

MINIs are not cheap, but they hold their money so well – especially with the TLC five-year service package and option packages – that motoring is cheaper overall than many rivals.

The ride is quite taut, but grip and handling is excellent, while the well-designed interior, with trademark big central speedo and homage to the original 1960s icon, is a masterpiece.



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MERCEDES-BENZ E-CLASS



PERHAPS the most staid of our trio, the E-Class claims the highest swank value. Nothing at this level beats a three-pointed star on the bonnet. Reliability and quality has been excellent, though the halo slipped on the current 2002-launch range (pictured) until a facelift in 2006. Ride and handling is more in the 'comfort zone', but the E-Class is nimble enough and the estate is a cavernous and luxurious load-lugger. Excellent diesel engines complete a tempting package.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

AUDI A6



UNTIL the current A6 range, Audi's 'management motor' struggled to match its German rivals for style and image, though fit and finish was beyond reproach. However, examples built before the current 2004 line-up (pictured) can still be incredible bargains. Unless you buy the more expensive quattro versions though, an A6 means front-wheel drive – not everyone's preference. Ride and comfort also tends towards hard and 'sporting', but the A6 has excellent powerplants, particularly diesels.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

BMW 5-SERIES



BMW and its charismatic badge enjoy the most aspirational image with buyers and much credit goes to the 5-Series – a big car yet famed for its handling. The previous (pre-2003 – pictured) incarnation laid the foundations for that and many people still prefer its reserved styling to the 'new age Beemer' looks of its successor. The 5-Series also boasts some excellent engines, including diesels, though underpowered four-cylinder petrol models are best avoided.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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YEAR	REG	MODEL	ENGINE	DOORS	COLOUR	MILEAGE	£	YEAR	REG	MODEL	ENGINE	DOORS	COLOUR	MILEAGE	£
CORSA								VECTRA							
2001	Y*	Corsa Comfort A/c	12	3	Space green	68,150	3,395	2005	05	Zafira Design Auto	18	5	Black sapphire	34,100	6,995
2002	02*	Corsa Sxi	12	3	Nepal yellow	55,800	3,995	2005	55	Zafira Club CDTi	19D	5	Panacotta	38,075	10,495
2002	52*	Corsa Comfort	12	5	Breeze blue	28,700	3,695	2005	55	New Zafira Life A/c	16	5	Flame red	31,650	8,995
2003	53	Corsa Sxi TDi	13D	3	Spearmint silver	43,200	4,695	2000	X*	Vectra Club	18	5	Star silver	66,800	2,695
2004	04	Corsa Energy E/T	12	3	Silver lightening	30,600	4,795	2001	51*	Vectra Estate Sxi	18	5	Black sapphire	77,000	3,395
2005	05	Corsa Sxi	12	3	Ultra blue	22,000	5,695	2001	51*	Vectra CDX Estate	2.6	5	Polar sea blue	56,450	3,595
2005	55	Corsa Sxi A/c	12	3	Black sapphire	27,050	6,175	2005	05	Vectra Design Auto	2.2	5	Ultra blue	11,750	7,995
2007	07	New Corsa Sxi A/c	14	3	Silver light	11,050	8,995	2005	05	Vectra Sri	2.2	5	Star silver	30,550	7,995
2007	57	New Corsa Club A/c	12	3	Star silver	5,950	8,650	2007	07	Vectra Sri	2.2	5	Ultra blue	7,950	10,995
2007	07	Corsa Design CDTi	17D	3	Air blue	14,550	10,995	2007	07	Vectra Exclusiv	18	5	Black sapphire	8,750	15,995
2007	07	Corsa Club	12	3	Air blue	5,800	7,995	2007	07	Vectra Sri CDTi (150ps)	19D	5	Star silver	12,650	9,995
2007	07	Corsa Club	12	3	Ultra blue	6,080	7,995	2007	07	Vectra Design	18	5	Panacotta	9,800	11,495
2007	07	Corsa Club	14	5	Star silver	8,000	8,495	2007	57	Vectra CDTi Exclusiv Auto	19D	5	Star silver	11,650	14,995
2007	57	New Corsa Club Auto	14	5	Air blue	11,175	9,995	OTHER MAKES							
SIGNUM								2002	52*	Mini One A/c	16	5	Red	58,500	7,295
2003	03*	Signum Elegance	22	5	Oyster	50,375	5,995	2006	06*	Freelander Freestyle TD4	20D	5	Black	10,800	12,500
2003	53	Signum Elegance Auto	22	5	Star silver	36,500	6,350	COMMERCIAL							
2004	04	Signum Elite Auto	22	5	Black sapphire	22,000	7,995	2007	07	Vivaro	19 D SWB		White	9,400	£10,150+VAT
2004	04	Signum Elegance Auto	22	5	Silver	34,850	7,695	2007	56	Movano	25 CDTi LWB		Silver	3,000	£13,995+VAT
2007	57	Signum CDTi Exclusiv Nav 19D	19D	5	Star silver	9,950	14,995	2007	07	Combo	13D Crew van		White	Delivery	£8,495+VAT
MERIVA								2007	07	Combo	13D CDTi		White	Delivery	£7,995+VAT
2004	53	Meriva Enjoy	18	5	Black sapphire	57,590	5,295	2007	57	Vivaro	19D Double cab		White	Delivery	£13,595+VAT
2004	54	Meriva Enjoy 16v	16	5	Silver light	19,350	5,995	2003	03*	Astravan Envoy TD	17D		White	84,200	£3,495+VAT
2007	07	Meriva Energy	14	5	Black sapphire	5,750	8,995	2006	56	Astravan	13 CDTi		White	9,800	£6,995+VAT
2007	57	Meriva VXR	16	5	Arden blue	2,680	12,495	2003	03*	Combo	17D		White	68,500	£3,695+VAT
VXR8								2007	57	Combo	13D CDTi		White	13,475	£7,350+VAT
2007	57	VXR8 Sat Nav	6.0	4	Phantom Black	6,775	32,995	2007	57	Combo	13 CDTi		White	3,400	£7,650+VAT
TIGRA								2003	53*	Vivaro	19D		White	81,000	£5,995+VAT
2007	07	Tigra Exclusiv Red	14	5	Metro blue	10,925	11,995	2005	55	Vivaro	19D		Red	57,500	£10,250+VAT
2007	07	Antara SE DTi	20D	5	Nickel silver	8,000	20,995	2006	56	Vivaro	19 CDTi		Red	9,800	£9,495+VAT
ASTRA								2007	57	Vivaro	19 CDTi		Red	9,800	£9,495+VAT
2001	Y*	Astra Club Estate	16	5	Barollo red	36,075	3,495	2007	57	Vivaro	20 CDTi		White	12,100	£10,295+VAT
2004	54	New Astra Club E/T	16	5	Star silver	40,500	6,995	2002	02*	Corsa Sxi	12	3	Yellow	52,000	3,995
2005	05	New Astra Estate Design	18	5	Breeze blue	33,700	7,995	2004	04	Corsa Energy CDTi	13D	3	Black sapphire	40,200	5,495
2005	05	New Astra Sri	2.0	3	Black sapphire	15,550	10,995	2005	05	Corsa Breeze	12	5	Silver lightening	32,000	5,495
2005	05	Astra Design	16	5	Black sapphire	47,400	6,995	2005	55	Corsa Breeze	12	3	Silver lightening	20,000	5,695
2006	06	New Astra Design	16	5	Pomegranate red	12,500	8,250	2005	05	New Astra Sxi Sports	16	3	Ultra blue	42,000	8,495
2006	06	New Astra Sxi Sports	14	3	Moonland	25,050	8,995	2005	05	Astra Design	16	5	Black sapphire	44,000	6,995
2007	07	Astra Sxi	16	5	Panacotta	5,800	9,495	DUE SOON							
2007	57	New Astra Club Estate CDTi 13D	13D	5	Panacotta	7,850	12,995	2002	02*	Corsa Sxi	12	3	Yellow	52,000	3,995
2007	57	New Astra Sri CDTi (150ps)	19D	5	Moonland	5,250	13,995	2004	04	Corsa Energy CDTi	13D	3	Black sapphire	40,200	5,495
ZAFIRA								2005	05	Corsa Breeze	12	5	Silver lightening	32,000	5,495
2002	02*	Zafira Club	16	5	Mirage	50,500	4,695	2005	55	Corsa Breeze	12	3	Silver lightening	20,000	5,695
2005	05	Zafira Breeze	16	5	Black sapphire	39,100	7,350	2005	05	New Astra Sxi Sports	16	3	Ultra blue	42,000	8,495
								2005	05	Astra Design	16	5	Black sapphire	44,000	6,995

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2004 (04) GALAXY 1.9TDI 115PS GHIA 7 SEATER
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• Air Conditioning • Alloy Wheels
• CD Player • Heated Front Screen

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Deposit	24 Monthly Payments	Amount of Credit	Charge for Credit	Total Amount Payable	Guaranteed Minimum Value
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Focus 1.6 Zetec Climate 5-door

FREE BLUETOOTH

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Do you have experience of and commitment to working with young people, and could you support and offer guidance to other colleagues?

We are seeking to appoint a Team Leader who is bright, full of ideas and enjoys using their initiative, to join our dedicated and highly effective staff team.

The primary function of this role is to establish and support Kent Safe Schools Primary Mental Health Project, a new initiative targeted at young people in Swale schools and working closely with teachers, health professional and CAMHS workers. You would work with multi-agencies, schools, parents, children and young people with the intention of making schools a safer environment for young people, and to facilitate the referral of young people through schools into mental health support programmes.

In addition to the Project Manager duties, the Area Team Leader will be expected to work closely with all agencies, schools and communities to identify networking opportunities and establish firm partnerships. You will take a shared responsibility for supporting other staff delivering in the same area, with a particular focus on the co-ordination of services, induction and training.

We are looking for applicants with a good understanding of educational issues who possess experience of working with young people, ideally in primary phase. Ref: CFE/08/0147

Closing date: Midday, 8th May 2008.

Partnership with Parents

Starting salary £26,159, with progression through contribution related pay to £29,920 per annum (pro rata for temporary post)
Sheppway Centre, Maidstone

We are looking to recruit people with exceptional communication skills who are committed to promoting good communication between parents, schools and agencies and increasing parental involvement.

You will need excellent oral and written communication skills, experience of developing partnerships with a wide range of people and experience of working with parents.

Partnership with Parents Development Officer - Parent Forums

Temporary/Secondment opportunity until April 2009

This is an exciting opportunity for someone with the right skills. We have been contracted by the Extended Schools Service to set up Parent Forums in each LCSP/Cluster. Do you have the skills to help us? Experience of managing projects is essential. Ref: CFE/08/0161

Partnership with Parents Development Officer

Full time post

This is an exciting opportunity for you to join our team at a time of significant development. We are an arm's length service providing an impartial advice and support service to parents and carers of children with additional needs.

We also work closely with schools, services and agencies to promote parental involvement.

We believe that good communication between all those involved in a child's education is key to good relationships which will help children achieve. Experience of delivering training and knowledge of AEN and SEN processes is essential. Ref: CFE/08/0162

Supervision will be provided for both posts.

Closing date for the above two posts: Midday, 8th May 2008.

The above posts are all subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

Personnel Assistant

Starting salary £16,627 with progression through contribution related pay to £18,288 pro rata
Brook House, Whitstable

The Schools' Personnel Service provides a comprehensive personnel service to schools across Kent. This includes giving advice on terms and conditions of employment, producing contracts and liaising with the schools' payroll providers.

We require a part-time Personnel Assistant (job share), working 22 hours per week - Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

We are looking for good team workers, educated to GCSE level or equivalent, to join our busy, hard working and friendly team. A high degree of tact and confidentiality is required as well as an ability to organise and prioritise work; keep calm under pressure and work to deadlines.

Previous personnel experience would be an advantage but not essential, as full training is given. Ref: CED/08/0049

Closing date: Midday, 7th May 2008.

To apply for any of these posts, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs
Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote appropriate reference number.

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Our services aren't the same,
so neither are our people.



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CURRENTLY RECRUITING HEALTH CARE ASSISTANTS/SUPPORT WORKERS/ REGISTERED NURSES

Initial work available in Maidstone & Tonbridge areas.

Bayada Nurses is a Nursing and Domiciliary Care Agency who specialize in home care services.

This involves short visits to people in their own homes, suitable candidates must be able to drive and have transport.

We also supply staff to both nursing/care homes and hospitals. Non drivers may be considered for these assignments.

We support our care staff to achieve NVQ qualifications.

If you are over 18 and feel you could make a difference and are committed to a career in care then we would like to hear from you.

For further details and to arrange an interview please call
Julie Epsley Free on 0800 084 2200 (9.00am - 10.00pm)
Email: info@bayada.co.uk www.bayada.co.uk

These positions are subject to an Enhanced CRB Disclosure



WEST HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

DARTFORD ROAD, DARTFORD, KENT DA1 3DZ

TEL: 01322 226019 FAX: 01322 220121

E-mail: office@west-hill.kent.sch.uk

Required from September 2008: Two Posts: Key Stage 1 Teacher MPS (Permanent) Key Stage 2 Teacher MPS (Permanent)

Do you wish to join a lively, talented and friendly staff?

We are seeking to appoint two enthusiastic and talented teachers to work in Key Stage 1 and in Key Stage 2. Applications from both experienced teachers and NQTs would be warmly welcomed.

Applicants should have high expectations for pupils' learning and behaviour. The ability to work in a team is essential. Applicants must be prepared to build on the educational progress of the children and to contribute positively to the ethos of the school's community.

Applicants are asked to state their curriculum interests. The school is well supported by the community it serves. The school has developed links with business and the international community. The school holds an International Award, Healthy Schools Award and the Active Mark.

If you would like to learn more about the school, please send for an information pack. Visits to the school are warmly welcomed.

Completed application forms should be forwarded to the
headteacher by 9th May 2008.

This post is subject to an enhanced CRB disclosure.

achievement employability experience development



Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Supply Lecturers

Various hours are available
Salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata pa
Post Ref: Supply

If you are a newly-qualified teacher, or an experienced specialist interested in a second career in Further Education, we are keen to hear from you. This is an exciting opportunity to gain valuable experience in the Further Education sector, supply lecturing offers the possibility of part-time hours fitted around your existing commitments, and according to your own specialist skills, qualifications and experience. A teaching qualification is not always essential, however if you do not hold one then we will provide the appropriate training when you join our team.

We offer a wide range of both vocational and academic courses -
to find out whether your skills match any of those on offer,
further details can be found at www.cant-col.ac.uk

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the
Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone)
quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above post is Monday 12 May at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Close to City Centre
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Staff Discount Scheme

Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer

COLLECTORS REQD ASAP

18+ years, car &
telephone essential
Training given,
Fee/Comm based
Please call Mark on
07966 968128 or
01634 304278

A2 CABS LTD Full & Part Time TAXI DRIVER'S Required

Please contact
Elaine
01795 431500

ADI'S URGENTLY REQUIRED

Fun, Lively, Qualified Driving
Instructors Required.
Competitive Franchise Fee
Call Kevin for More Details.

07787 123452

kevin@revolutiondrivingschool.co.uk
www.revolutiondrivingschool.co.uk

WANTED! SEASONAL RELIEF WORKERS

for our Plant Nursery. Also

FULL TIME ENTHUSIASTIC PERSON

for Plant Propagation,
Display, Retail Sales,
knowledge of plant life
gardening essential.

Telephone 01233 740529
Victoriana Nursery Gardens
Challock, Nr Ashford TN25 4DG

Personal Assistant/Carer

Required for
young disabled man
approx 10hrs per week each
£7 per hour
Quote ref: 420
to 01634 331667



achievement employability experience development



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Co-ordinator Public Services

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £26,365 per annum Post Ref: CO46

Co-ordinator Mathematics

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £26,365 per annum Post Ref: 08/61

Lecturer Public Services

27.75 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum Post Ref: 08/38

Lecturer Health & Social Care

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum Post Ref: 07/81

Lecturer Early Years

37 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 per annum Post Ref: 06/138

Lecturer Early Years

37 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 per annum Post Ref: 08/40

Lecturer Key Skills within Early Years and Public Services

37 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 per annum Post Ref: 08/39

Lecturer Animal Care and Land Based Studies

3 x 37 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 per annum Post Ref: 08/41, 08/42 & 08/43

Lecturer Animal Care and Land Based Studies

37 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 per annum Fixed-term post for one year Post Ref: 08/44

Lecturer in Business

37 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 per annum Post Ref: 08/45

Lecturer in Hospitality & Catering

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum Post Ref: 08/47

Lecturer in Performing Arts and Dance Techniques

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum Post Ref: 08/48

Lecturer in Performing Arts - Theatre Production Arts

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum Post Ref: 08/49

Lecturer Key Skills in ICT and Application of Number within Dance and Dramatic Arts

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum Post Ref: 08/50

Lecturer in Media Theory

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum Post Ref: 08/53

Lecturer in Computer Games and Interactive Media

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum Post Ref: 08/54

Lecturer in Journalism

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum Post Ref: 08/55

Lecturer in Graphic Design/Digital Photography

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum Post Ref: 08/56

Lecturer in French

14.8 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum Fixed-term post for one year Post Ref: 08/57

Lecturer in Psychology

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum Post Ref: 08/58

Lecturer in Forensic Science

7.4 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum Post Ref: 08/59

Lecturer in Science

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum Post Ref: 08/60

Lecturer HE Graphic Design

37 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 per annum Post Ref: 08/62

Lecturer HE Health & Social Care

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum Post Ref: 08/63

Lecturer Corporate ICT

2 x 9.25 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum Fixed-term post for two years Post Ref: 08/64 & 08/65

Supply Lecturers Health & Social Care

Various hours available, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum Post Ref: S/H&SC

Supply Lecturers in Amenity Horticulture

Various hours available from July 2008, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum Post Ref: S/AH

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts Monday 12 May at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme

Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer



HILLVIEW SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

"a good and improving school with some outstanding features" (Ofsted 2008)

Brionne Gardens, Tonbridge Kent TN9 2HE

Tel no: 01732 352793 Fax: 01732 368718

e-mail admin@hillview.kent.sch.uk

We are a progressive non-selective school in the heart of Kent, a High Performing Specialist School with excellent resources and recently completed £5m build.

Required for September 2008

Teacher of Health & Social Care

MPS

Due to the outstanding success of this expanding department we are seeking to appoint a talented and committed teacher to

- Work as part of a dynamic team to raise the aspirations of our students
- The ability and potential to teach across the full age and attainment range from KS4 to post-16.

Applications are welcome from unqualified teachers with relevant sector experience

Visits to the school are very welcome. Please telephone or e-mail the school for an application pack. Closing date for applications: 12th May 2008



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TEACHERS

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EXCELLENT DAILY RATE

Call for an immediate interview

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Or E-mail: office@classiceducation.co.uk

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A Kent based company you can rely on

PROJECT LEADER

required for expanding Biochemistry Company. Position involves co-ordinating and completion of the manufacture of products to set deadlines and specifications within a laboratory environment.

Competencies required: Degree, professional qualification (with 1 years laboratory experience) or at least 3 year's practical laboratory experience. Previous supervisory experience preferred plus ability to produce high quality documentation according to ISO guidelines. Competitive Salary.

Please apply in the first instance with C.V. to: Mrs. Odette Bennett, Scipac Ltd. Broad Oak Enterprise Village Broad Oak Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8AQ.

achievement employability experience development



Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Publications & Design Officer

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £20,775 per annum Post Ref: 08/25

Trainer Demonstrator Business

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum Post Ref: 08/46

Curriculum Support Assistant within the Faculty of ICT, Retail and Commercial, Leisure and Tourism, Business & Law

37 hrs per week, 38 weeks per year term time. Post Ref: 08/66

Salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum

Recruitment Officer

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £16,364 per annum Post Ref: RO2

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts Monday 12 May at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme

Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer

GSE DESIGN & BUILD

GSE are the South East's leading Design & Build Company and with a healthy long term order book now require the following staff

CONTRACTS MANAGER

Motivated and enthusiastic Contracts Manager with a proven track record. The successful candidate will be responsible for running 3/4 prestigious contracts with values to £6m, manage major projects and develop further business opportunities, mainly in the Kent area.

CONTRACTS SURVEYOR

Highly motivated Contracts Surveyor to measure and manage a diverse portfolio of traditional and design & build projects in Kent. Candidates should have appropriate experience in appointing sub-contractors and the production of monthly valuations and final accounts. Excellent package offered to the right candidates.

Please submit CV & covering letter to Mrs. S. Barlow, GSE Group, Joshua House, Crowbridge Road, Ashford, Kent TN24 0GR or sue.barlow@gse-group.com
No Agencies please.

Swale Carers Centre
PROMOTING, SUPPORTING AND
EMPOWERING CARERS OF ALL AGES

**YOUNG CARERS SUPPORT SERVICE -
SUPPORT OFFICER**

**£18,225 + essential car user & mileage
allowances & pension contribution**

Swale Carers Centre, based in Sheerness, seeks an innovative, energetic, reliable, person to join our highly successful and well respected young carers support service team, to promote, support and empower young carers aged 5-18 residing in the Swale area, through provision of information, advice, advocacy, respite activities and workshops, including after school/early evening support groups (term-time) plus occasional weekend working, including residential and camping events during school holidays.

To apply please contact Sandie Hornby on 01795 583440 or email sandie.swalecarers@tiscali.co.uk



Wilmington Enterprise College
Common Lane, Wilmington, Dartford,
Kent DA2 7DR

Headteacher: Grahame Price
Tel: 01322 272111 Fax: 01322 222500
email: admin@wec.kent.sch.uk
www.wec.kent.sch.uk

**TECHNICIAN/INSTRUCTOR
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY**

Required as soon as possible. 37 hours per week for 41 weeks per year. Salary Kent Scheme 4 £15,826 - £16,627 (pro rata). To support teaching and learning in Design and Technology and following appropriate training to cover for absent teachers on short term sickness. Further detail available from the school.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 6th May 2008

Gravesham

Borough Council

Communities**Customer and Theatre Services****Catering Supervisor**

Salary: Circa £17,000 – £19,000

An enthusiastic, self motivated supervisor is required to head up a busy catering team at the Woodville Halls Theatre. You will oversee the day to day running of a well appointed bar and Spotlites cafe, as well as catering for a variety of functions and corporate events at the Civic Centre.

You will hold a current Basic Health and Hygiene Certificate and preferably have experience in a supervisory role. A recognised qualification would be an advantage.

A good working knowledge of budgets, stock control procedures and customer care are also essential. Ref: CS/AT Closing date is: 9 May, 2008.

Commissionaire

**Salary: Circa £6,500 – £8,500 pa, including unsocial hours payment
2 part time posts – 18.5 hours per week on a rota basis**

The postholders will be responsible for providing an out of hours meet & greet and security service to the Civic Centre and Woodville Halls, on a shift basis which will involve an element of a lone-working.

The ideal candidate will be a good team player with experience of working in a customer facing role. Good communication and IT skills are essential as well as the ability to work under pressure.

Knowledge of health and safety and/or experience working in a cleaning and/or caretaking role would be an advantage. Ref: C/AT Closing date is: 9 May, 2008.

Communities**Customer Services****Part time Administrative Assistant**

Salary: Circa £6,500 – £8,000

Part time post – 20 hours per week, Mon – Fri, 1 – 5pm

We are looking for a part time Administrative Assistant to undertake a variety of administration tasks and assist with internal and external enquires within the customer services department.

Working as part of a dedicated, multiskilled team you will possess good administrative and customer service skills, be competent in Word, Excel and Outlook Express and have a flexible approach to the role.

Applicants should be available to provide additional cover during peak periods and sickness when necessary. Ref: AA/AT Closing date is: 9 May, 2008.

Part time Customer Service Officers

Salary: Circa £15,500 – £18,500 pro rata

Post A: Mon – Fri, 8.45am – 1.00pm

Post B: Mon – Fri, 12:30pm – 4.00pm

As part of a dedicated, multi skilled team these posts are based in our state of the art Customer Contact Centre and involve dealing with customers via telephone, face to face and written communication.

Successful applicants will have excellent customer service and communication skills, a professional approach together with a working knowledge of IT and the ability to adapt and learn IT systems quickly.

Experience of working within a customer facing role and working to deadlines often under pressure is also essential.

Applicants will be required to attend a short skills assessment as part of the selection process. Ref: CSO/AT Closing date is: 9 May, 2008.

Housing and Environment**Housing Contracts****Surveyor (Contracts)**

Salary: Circa £24,000 to £29,500

Gravesham Borough Council is currently looking to recruit an experienced Housing Surveyor to join a small team at Brookvale Depot in Northfleet.

Gravesham has a housing stock of 6000 with 2 strategic partners delivering services to complete the Capital and Revenue expenditure programmes. You will be involved in the organisation and monitoring of building related projects and schemes and will assist in the delivery of the Capital works, Decent Homes and revenue programmes.

You will hold an HNC (Building) or equivalent with extensive experience in social housing maintenance.

The position is subject to successful CRB clearance. A clean current driving license is essential. Ref: CT/CS Closing date is: 16 May, 2008.

Supervisor – Gas/Energy

Salary: Circa £21,500 to £25,500

Gravesham Borough Council is currently looking to recruit a Gas/Energy Surveyor to manage the cyclical gas servicing for 6000 properties currently carried under a partnership agreement. You will be required to supervise 300 new gas central heating installations each year, as well as identifying energy saving initiatives and implementing these initiatives to improve the SAP rating of the Council's housing stock.

You will possess Corgi/ACS or compatible gas safety certification or a pertinent higher qualification and have experience of managing or assisting with the management of gas service, safety and installation work relating to housing stock.

The position is subject to successful CRB clearance. A clean current driving license is essential. Ref: SGE/CT Closing date is: 16 May, 2008.

For an application form and job description please contact:

Customer Services, Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre,
Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU.

Telephone: 01474 33 70 00

Email: customer.services@gravesham.gov.uk

Website: www.gravesham.gov.uk

*Gravesham Borough Council is working towards equal opportunities
and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.
The Council also operates a no smoking policy.*



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MEDWAY TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES



PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Teacher

Burnt Oak Primary School

KS2 Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 12 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Gill Perry, Headteacher
Burnt Oak Primary School
Cornwall Road
Gillingham
Kent ME7 1LP
Telephone - (01634) 852991
Fax - 01634 571283
Email
office@burntoak.medway.sch.uk

Fairview Community Primary School

Year 3
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and fixed term
Term of contract: 1 Year
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Diana Parker, Office Manager
Fairview Community Primary School
Drewery Drive, Wigmore
Gillingham
Kent ME8 0NU
Tel: 01634 338710
Email office@
fairviewprimary.medway.sch.uk

Gordon Junior School

KS2 Teacher (Responsibility for Literacy)
Salary: MPS + TLR 2b - £3940
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 13 May 2008
Please contact
Mrs Ellen Wilson, Headteacher
Gordon Junior School
Gordon Road, Strood
Rochester
Kent ME2 3HQ
Telephone - (01634) 719971
Fax - 01634 290337
Email headteacher@
gordon-jun.medway.sch.uk

Hempstead Junior School

Key Stage 2 Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Term of contract: Maternity Cover
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mr David Bignell, Headteacher
Hempstead Junior School
Birch Grove, Hempstead
Gillingham
Kent ME7 3SD
Telephone - (01634) 371823
Fax - 01634 233328
Email office@
hempsteadjnr.medway.sch.uk

The Pilgrim School

KS2 Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs D Field, Office Manager
The Pilgrim School
Warwick Crescent, Borstal
Rochester
Kent ME1 3LF
Telephone - (01634) 841873
Email
office@pilgrim.medway.sch.uk

Elaine Primary

KS2 Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Closing Date: 9 May 2008
Required From: 1 September 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Lynn Garnham, Headteacher
Elaine Primary
Elaine Avenue
Strood
Kent ME2 2YN
Telephone - (01634) 718057
E-mail Headteacher@
elaine.medway.sch.uk

Twydall Infant

Foundation Stage 2 / Key Stage 1
Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 9 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs. S. Fedosiuk
Headteacher
Twydall Infants
Twydall Lane
Gillingham
Kent ME8 6JS
Telephone - (01634) 231761
Fax - 01634 260144
Email headteacher@
twydallinf.medway.sch.uk

Deputy Headteacher Fairview Community Primary School

Deputy Headteacher
Salary: L12-L16 +relocation package
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 9 May 2008
To apply/more information
Debbie Willis, Headteacher
Fairview Community Primary School
Drewery Drive, Wigmore
Gillingham
Kent ME8 0NU
Telephone - (01634) 338710
Email headteacher@
fairviewprimary.medway.sch.uk

Elaine Primary

Deputy Headteacher
Salary: L10-L14 (£43,656-£48,138)
Full Time and Permanent
Closing Date: 6 May 2008
Required From: 1 September 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Lynn Garnham, Headteacher
Elaine Primary
Elaine Avenue
Strood
Kent ME2 2YN
Telephone - (01634) 718057
E-mail Headteacher@
elaine.medway.sch.uk

Headteacher

Maundene School
Headteacher
Salary: L20-L26 £55,782-£64,611
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 9 May 2008
Please contact:
Sue Bowers, Medway Council
Civic Centre
Strood
Rochester
Kent ME2 4AU
Tel: 01634 331100
Email vacancies@medway.gov.uk

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Teacher

The Thomas Aveling School
Teacher of
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and permanent
Required from: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 9 May 2008

To apply/ more information

Mr R Hart, Headteacher
The Thomas Aveling School
Arethusa Road
Rochester
Kent, ME1 2UW
Telephone: 01634 844809
Fax: 01634 818385
Email: office@thomasaveling.co.uk

Fort Pitt Grammar

Teacher of Religious Education
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 7 May 2008

To apply/more information

Mrs L. Maile, Headteacher's PA
Fort Pitt Grammar
Fort Pitt Hill
Chatham
Kent ME4 6TJ
Telephone - (01634) 842359
Fax - 01634817376
Email headteacher@
fortpitt.medway.sch.uk

Fort Pitt Grammar

Teacher of Chemistry
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 7 May 2008

To apply/more information

Mrs L. Maile, Headteacher's PA
Fort Pitt Grammar, Fort Pit Hill, Chatham
Kent ME4 6TJ
Telephone - (01634) 842359
Fax - 01634817376
Email headteacher@
fortpitt.medway.sch.uk

Fort Pitt Grammar

Teacher of Psychology
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 7 May 2008

To apply/more information

Mrs L. Maile, Headteacher's PA
Fort Pitt Grammar
Fort Pitt Hill
Chatham
Kent ME4 6TJ
Telephone - (01634) 842359
Fax - 01634817376
Email: headteacher@
fortpitt.medway.sch.uk

Rainham Mark Grammar

Teacher of Art
Salary: MPS / UPS
Full Time and Permanent (Part time considered)
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 7 May 2008

To apply/more information

School Office
Rainham Mark Grammar
Pump Lane
Gillingham
Kent ME8 7AJ
Telephone - (01634) 364151
Fax - 01634 260209
Email - office@
rainhammark.medway.sch.uk

Rainham School for Girls

Teacher of Science/ Health and Social Care
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 2 May 2008

To apply/more information

Mrs D Francis, Personnel Officer
Rainham School For Girls
Derwent Way, Rainham
Gillingham
Kent ME8 0BX
Telephone - (01634) 362746
Fax - 01634 388334
Email admin@rsg.org.uk

Rainham School for Girls

Teacher of Music
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 12 May 2008

To apply/more information

Mrs D Francis, Personnel Officer
Rainham School For Girls
Derwent Way, Rainham
Gillingham
Kent ME8 0BX
Telephone - (01634) 362746
Fax - 01634 388334
Email admin@rsg.org.uk

Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School

Teacher of English (to be responsible for KS3 English)
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR2c
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 7 May 2008

To apply/more information

Mrs Jacqueline Harrison
Headteacher's PA
Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Maidstone Road, Rochester
Kent ME1 3EL
Telephone - (01634) 844008
Fax - 01634 818303
Email office@
sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School

Teacher of History
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 7 May 2008

To apply/more information

Mrs Jacqueline Harrison
Headteacher's PA
Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Maidstone Road, Rochester
Kent ME1 3EL
Telephone - (01634) 844008
Fax - 01634 818303
Email office@
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Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School

Teacher of Mathematics
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 7 May 2008

To apply/more information

Mrs Jacqueline Harrison
Headteacher's PA
Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Maidstone Road, Rochester
Kent ME1 3EL
Telephone - (01634) 844008
Fax - 01634 818303
Email office@
sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive

Teacher of Science
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 2 May 2008

To apply/more information

Mrs K Cruttenden
Headteachers P.A.
The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo, Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive

Teacher of Maths
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 2 May 2008

To apply/more information

Mrs K Cruttenden,
Headteachers P.A.
The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo, Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

The Thomas Aveling School

Teacher of Business Studies
Salary: MPS / UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 9 May 2008

To apply/more information

Mr R Hart, Headteacher
Arethusa Road, Rochester
Kent ME1 2UW
Telephone - (01634) 844809
Fax - 01634 818385
Email office@thomasaveling.co.uk

Advanced Skills Teacher

Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School

AST Technology
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 7 May 2008

To apply/more information

Mrs Jacqueline Harrison
Headteacher's PA
Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Maidstone Road, Rochester
Kent ME1 3EL
Telephone - (01634) 844008
Fax - 01634 818303
Email office@
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Head of Department

Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School

Head of Chemistry
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR2b
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 7 May 2008

To apply/more information

Mrs Jacqueline Harrison
Headteacher's PA
Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Maidstone Road
Rochester, Kent ME1 3EL
Telephone - (01634) 844008
Fax - 01634 818303
Email office@
sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

Walderslade Girls School

Head of Business Studies
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 2B
Full time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 2 May 2008

To apply/more information

Walderslade Girls School
Bradfields Avenue
Walderslade, Kent ME5 0LE
Telephone - (01634) 861596
Email Headteacher@
waldersladegirls.medway.sch.uk

Curriculum Leader

Rainham School for Girls

Curriculum Leader - Geography
Salary: MPS/UPS +TLR 2b (£4,037)
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 2 May 2008

To apply/more information

Mrs D Francis
Personnel Officer
Rainham School For Girls
Derwent Way, Rainham
Gillingham, Kent ME8 0BX
Telephone - (01634) 362746
Fax - 01634 388334
Email admin@rsg.org.uk

Subject Leader

The Thomas Aveling School

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Studies with a responsibility for Enterprise Education
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Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 9 May 2008

To apply/more information

Mr R Hart, Headteacher
Arethusa Road
Rochester, Kent ME1 2UW
Telephone - (01634) 844809
Fax - 01634 818385
Email office@thomasaveling.co.uk

Deputy Headteacher / Curriculum Manager

Walderslade Girls School

Deputy Headteacher / Curriculum Manager
Salary: L16 - L20

Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 1 May 2008

To apply/more information

Mrs P Conibear, Headteacher
Walderslade Girls School
Bradfields Avenue, Chatham
Kent ME5 0LE
Telephone - (01634) 861596
Fax - 01634 869246
Email headteacher@
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Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 9 May 2008
To apply/more information
Linda Taylor, Abbey Court Community Special School
Rede Court Road, Strood
Rochester, Kent ME2 3SP
Telephone - (01634) 338224
Fax - 01634 295369
Email office@abbeycourt.med.sch.uk

Abbey Court Community Special School

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Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 9 May 2008

To apply/more information

Linda Taylor, Abbey Court Community Special School
Rede Court Road, Strood
Rochester, Kent ME2 3SP
Telephone - (01634) 338224
Fax - 01634 295369
Email
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Bradfields School

Assistant Head - Pupil Development
Salary: Leadership scale 10 - 14
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 14 May 2008

To apply/more information

Mrs Gill Ellen
Bradfields School, Churchill Avenue
Chatham Kent ME5 0LB
Telephone - (01634) 683990
Fax - 01634 828284
Email
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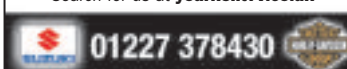
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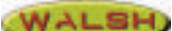
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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Networking lunch at annual exhibition

BUSINESS figures will be converging on the Ashford International Hotel in the summer for its popular annual exhibition.

The business-to-business event, in its 22nd year, will take place on Tuesday, June 24, and is being organised by the Invicta Chamber of Commerce. The event will held from 10am-5pm.

Organisers say it is an ideal way for businesses to make contacts. There will also be a networking lunch. Entrance to the exhibition is free.

For details about exhibition space at the event, you can phone Frankie on 01233 503838, or email frankie@kentinvictachamber.co.uk.

Bathroom company moving up in size

WORK is under way on a new home for Claygate, the Kent-based distributor of bathroom and plumbing products to the merchant trade.

Based at Pattenden Lane in Marden, Claygate is investing £8.3 million in the construction of a 106,833 sq ft (9,925 sq m) distribution and office development, which will safeguard the local workforce as well as generating new posts later on in the year.

The new building will occupy 6.9 acres of Claygate's 11.73-acre site on the outskirts of the village and will leave space for further expansion and landscaping.

Doing the work is GSE Design and Build, based in Ashford, and the building is expected to be ready for occupation in August this year.

Chamber has space

THE Dover District Chamber of Commerce Business Exhibition will be taking place on Thursday, May 22, at the Ramada Hotel from 10am-4pm. There are still some stands left to hire.

Contact Dover District Chamber of Commerce, White Cliffs Business Centre, Honeywood Road, Whitfield, Dover, Kent, CT16 3EH, or phone 01304 824955.



WRITE STUFF: Miriam Adisa has won this year's competition

FROM the days of dropping our first pennies into a piggy bank to opening up a new bank account, our society is no stranger to the concept of saving.

Yet for many people saving relates only to short-term aims such as an exotic holiday or a luxury car. Few think about saving for the future – in particular for retirement.

Given our familiarity with the concept of saving, widespread knowledge as to what this actually involves is surprisingly limited.

According to YouGov, only a quarter of British people are putting money away for their future. Many have not even started to save, particularly women.

The population of this country, like many in the Western world, is ageing: modern technology means that life expectancy has increased while the birth rate drops.

As a result, in a few decades the non-working population (pensioners) may eclipse the working population.

People won't be able to rely on the ever-decreasing state pension so must do their best

Retirement is a winner for young schoolgirl

CHISLEHURST and Sidcup Grammar schoolgirl Miriam Adisa, 17, has been named as the ifs Young Business Writer of the Year 2008.

Financial education charity the ifs School of Finance – ifs was previously called the Institute of Financial Services – runs an annual competition open to all UK students aged between 14 and 19.

This year the title was 'Saving for the future, one size fits all?'. Here is an edited version of Miriam's article.

to save and invest for their own future as the global retirement funding crisis looms.

Pensions should really be used in conjunction with another investment option to ensure full satisfaction – although they do have an edge over other investments in that the Government offers tax breaks on the money saved for retirement.

While there might not be a right or wrong

option, it is still very important not to put all your eggs in one basket.

The best advice is to spread investment options: a more diversified and long-term portfolio should guarantee financial security.

The saving options at present are numerous, but the problem in our society is not with the options available but whether or not we are fully utilising them.

Our attitude towards saving is also to blame. Our consumer society – buy now, pay later – means that saving and retirement in particular are almost seen as taboo subjects.

Many people begin to think of their financial responsibilities only after coming out of university saddled with debt and with the ability to save many years down the line.

One implication of this is that many will have to extend their working lives. Attitudes and a lack of awareness seem at to be the roots of the problem.

The solution lies with each individual to play a part to plan and save for their future.

The best time to start is now.

Don't expect retirement to take care of itself. Whatever you save is what you will end up with – there will be no surprises.

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Picture PHIL HOUGHTON



POINTING THE FINGER: Gills boss Mark Stimson bemoans his side's lack of luck

Unlucky Stimson talks with Scally in hope of finding a top-notch target man

FOOTBALL

GILLINGHAM manager Mark Stimson feels his side are not getting their fair share of luck as they conceded a late equaliser against arch-rivals Swindon Town on Saturday.

The Gills dominated the match in a similar fashion to their last home game against Swansea City, but they were denied a penalty and ultimately the three points.

Stimson said: "I am disappointed, I thought we done enough in the game to win it. Apart from the goal, Derek Stillie has not had to make a save.

"I thought we were always in control of the game. To concede so late on,

there wasn't much time left to change anything.

"It's that word again 'luck'. I always believe it evens itself out over the course of the season, but the last few weeks we have not had any.

"The way to get that is by making it yourself. The players said it was a stonewall penalty.

"The referee has made a big decision and sometimes you'd like him to look at the linesman. When your luck is down things do not go for you."

The former Stevenage boss believes in the summer the club have to try and attract a prolific striker to help them, whatever division they will be playing in.

He said: "We need to bring a striker into the club that is a regular 15-20 goals a season man.

"They don't fall off trees and are hard to get. The chairman and I will have a chat this week about the budget for next season.

"He has always said to me to go out and put my own stamp on this football club and has never changed that since we first met."

Disabled pupils take to slopes for Games

THE second annual Medway Disability Winter Youth Games will take place at the Capstone Ski Centre in Chatham, tomorrow.

Bradfields School, Chatham, will be sending two teams while Warren Wood of Rochester, the Hoo St Werburgh Primary Unit and the St Werburgh Centre, also from Hoo, will all be represented.

The schools have spent the last six weeks attending free coaching sessions at the centre and on the day pupils will go through the Skill Level Star Awards, before taking part in tobogganing and snowtube relays.

The Summer Youth Games will take place on July 10 at Deangate Ridge.

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Mark Stimson says he has no regrets about taking over as Gillingham boss

Question mark over Mulligan's future

GILLINGHAM manager Mark Stimson says the ball is in Gary Mulligan's court after the club offered to extend his contract.

Stimson told Yourmedway: "He has got to ask himself a few questions if he wants to stay with us - whether if we do get relegated he will want to be a part of a team fighting in League Two. At this club I want players who have ambition and want to be playing for promotion."

"I have known some players who are happy just to turn up and play and be happy with finishing mid table, but at this club I want winners."

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MISSED CHANCES: Simeon Jackson will rue a number of missed chances as Gillingham concede a late equaliser against Swindon which leaves them on the brink of relegation

Gills teetering on edge of League One abyss

FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD

Gillingham 1 Swindon 1

The visitor's first attack came shortly after as Lee Peacock shot agonisingly wide.

Gillingham continued to play the better football keeping the Swindon defence on their toes.

Simon King had his head in his hands on 18 minutes, as he fired a free header over the bar, then Jackson had another glorious chance to increase the lead, but his effort lacked power and was saved by Brezovan from four yards.

Just before the break, Mulligan looked to have earned a penalty as he seemed to be brought down inside the area by Jack Smith, but controversially the referee gave a free-kick on the edge of the box. Southall's strike forced Brezovan into a save.

After the break Gillingham continued in the

same vain as they had finished the first half.

Seven minutes after the restart they could so easily have scored their second of the game.

Mulligan's back-heel out-foxed the Swindon defence and fell into the path of the on-rushing Jackson, but he sent his shot narrowly wide.

Once again a Southall free-kick caused chaos in the Swindon defence on 70 minutes and had to be cleared off the line by Brezovan, as Gills continued their search for a second.

With just minutes to play Gillingham were dealt a sucker punch as Swindon equalised.

A corner from the left caused the defence problems and Hasney Aljofree tapped past Derek Stillie.

The Gills tried to fight back in the remaining minutes and Southall almost found the net with a diving header, but it wasn't to be.

With Cheltenham losing to Oldham, Gillingham must win away at Leeds United next Saturday and hope that Cheltenham fail to win at home to Doncaster, if they are to keep their League One status.

Email sports@kosmedia.co.uk

Picture: AARON LINE



SHINING STAR: Darren Smith, left, was one of several young Chatham players to impress boss Steve Binks who feels his young side could be fighting for a play-off position next season

Binks already looking ahead to next season

STEVE Binks says he's "gutted" the season is over, after a wonderful fightback saw his Chatham Town side snatch three points from Burgess Hill.

After a promising start the Chats fell behind to an eighth-minute goal, but the visitors took a stranglehold on the game.

They drew level five minutes from half-time, when a superb passing move involving half the team finished with Justin Ascheri speeding past two defenders and scoring from an acute angle.

Although the Chats dominated the second half, they fell behind to a sucker punch five minutes the end.

The Hillians then nearly made it 3-1, but the

FOOTBALL

■ BY FRED ATKINS

Burgess Hill Town 2 Chatham Town 3

attack broke down and as Chatham countered, Darren Smith was brought down for a penalty, which he converted himself.

Steve Binks admitted after the game he would have been happy with a point, but his players had other ideas and, with time running out, Tyrone James headed an inch-perfect cross from Tom Binks across the keeper for the winner.

The Chats manager believes a tilt at the play-offs is possible next season, if Chatham

can strengthen their promising young squad.

He told Yourmedway: "There are two or three players I'm looking to bring in and I'll be speaking to them over the summer, but just as importantly we've got six or seven players who are all young, all in their early 20s, that we want to hang on to."

"I'm really excited about next season and I'm just gutted this one's coming to an end."

"I like to think we'd be vying for a place at the other end of the table as we've taken half our points against teams in the top half."

Binks showered praise on his players, saying: "We just keep getting better and better. We played some really good football at times and the passing and moving was the best it's been since I've been at the club."

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GILLS VIEWPOINT



STAYING PUT: Paul Scally has no intention of leaving

Jones backs Scally to fulfil Gills dream

NEW Gillingham chief executive Mark Jones admitted chairman Paul Scally had been "stunned and saddened" by criticism this season, but quashed speculation he was on his way out of Priestfield and said the club's planned new stadium could regenerate the whole of Medway.

In a frank interview in the Gills match-day programme, Jones said: "The chairman is definitely not leaving. Although I think it's fair to say he has been stunned and saddened by some of the treatment he has received this season, I know from past experience he is no quitter and is someone you'd want around in tough times."

Jones first met Scally 25 years ago when he was working for LBC Radio and his career has taken him to some of the farthest flung corners of Europe.

As part of the Enic Media Group, Jones was responsible for dragging sleeping giants like AEK Athens and Slavia Prague into the 21st century, by introducing English marketing practices.

He then had a brief spell with Watford and was managing director of Lingfield Park Racecourse, but found the chance to return to football impossible to turn down.

Scally, and Gillingham's long-term potential, proved persuasive: "I came here mainly because of the chairman," he said. "I like him and I am excited and impressed by his vision of where the club can go and what it can achieve."

The long-mooted new stadium is key to both men's goals and Jones' brief is to shoulder some of the chairman's burden.

He said: "I will run the business on a day-to-day basis and the chairman will run the stadium issues and deal with our manager on all team and player affairs."

Jones believes a new stadium will regenerate the area.

He said: "I think the business model can work, without a doubt and it has worked wherever a new stadium has been built, with attendances increasing each season due to better facilities."

"In my view it is something the Medway Towns really needs."

Mos fall to Spartans' resistance

ICE HOCKEY

Sheffield Spartans 7 Invicta Dynamos 2

THE curtain fell on the Mos' season in South Yorkshire on Sunday with a comprehensive defeat in their cup semi-final.

With no less than ten players unavailable, the odds on an Invicta win were long, but they belied their underdog status with a bright start.

Ryan Giles nearly gave them the lead with a wraparound effort in the opening minute and Peter Carey was inches away from putting in the rebound.

Sheffield's luck didn't hold. With Robert Palmer sent to the sin bin for roughing, the Yorkshire side fell behind when Damien Welch slapped the opening goal past Ben Bowns in the fourth minute.

Yet Medway were in front for just 11 seconds as Ryan Handisides equalised

almost immediately and the visitors' chances quickly deteriorated when Alex Shaw was called for interference and Damien Welch followed him off for cross checking.

The three remaining players struggled to contain the home side's five and Handisides shot Sheffield ahead.

Glen Jackson produced two saves to thwart Matt Haywood, but Tom Squires quickly turned in a rebound and when Kevin Parrish fell victim to a hooking call in the 12th minute, Squires again took advantage to make it 4-1.

The game was effectively up at the end of the first period when the Mos froze, anticipating an off-side call that never came and Richie Oliver scored the fifth at the back post.

Peter Korff reduced the deficit in the second period with a backhand and nearly made it 5-3 moments later, but even when Sheffield were reduced to four they still managed to find the net through Oliver and Mark Turner was gifted time and space to fire the final goal past Ian Rowlands.



UNDERDOGS: A weakened Invicta Dynamo side, with ten of their squad unavailable, were soundly beaten by Sheffield Spartans

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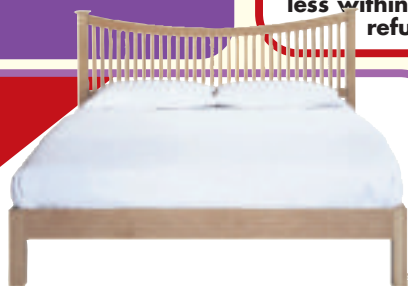
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